

WRESTLING MONTHLY

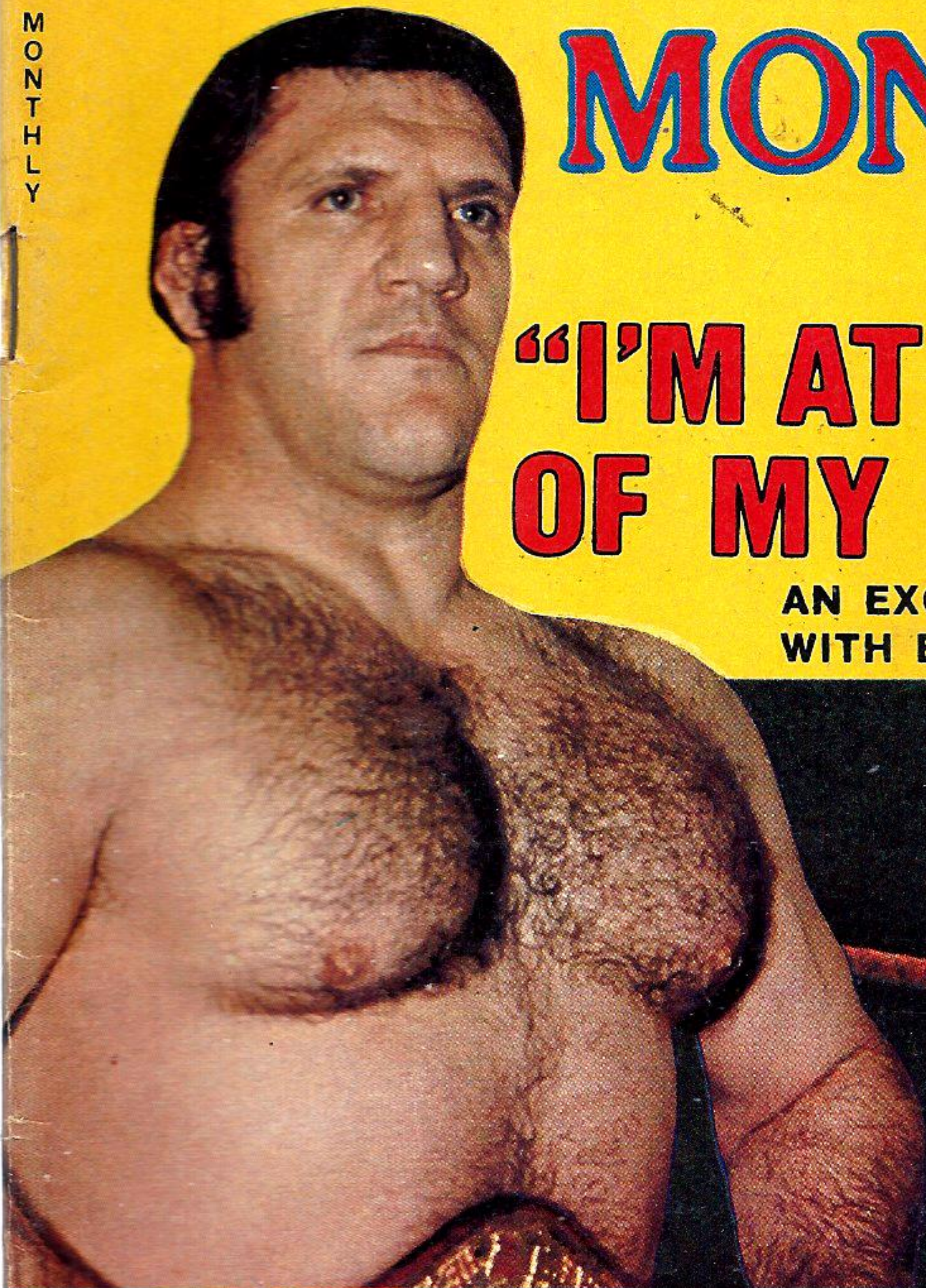
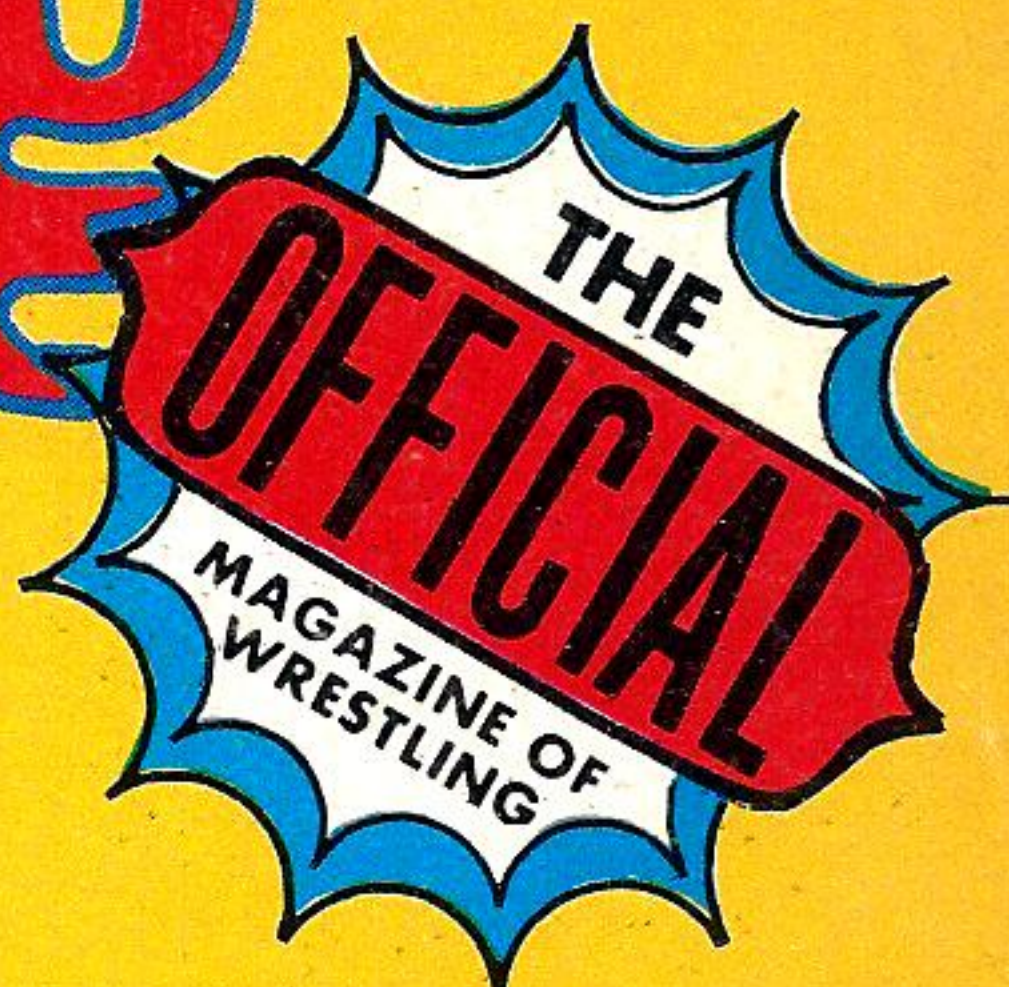
JANUARY 1978



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Wrestling MONTHLY



**"I'M AT THE CROSSROADS
OF MY CAREER"**

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
WITH BRUNO SAMMARTINO



**THE GRAPPLING
GAME'S
FIERCEST FEUD**



**SHOWDOWN
IN MODESTO**

Wrestling

MONTHLY

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Due to the tremendous volume of mail that we receive we can no longer give personal answers to inquiries. In the future we will simply select the most significant questions and answer them in our readers' columns in **WRESTLING MONTHLY** and **WRESTLING REVUE**.

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This publication presents an exclusive interview with the former World Wide Wrestling Federation heavyweight champion Bruno Sammartino. Mr. Sammartino granted reporter Frank Amato this exclusive interview to present his side of why he does not own the gold belt of the WWWF.

"I'M AT THE CROSSROADS OF MY CAREER"

SAYS BRUNO SAMMARTINO

(An exclusive interview with Frank Amato)

Amato: Bruno, let us get down to the issue. Why are you the ex-WWWF champion?

Sammartino: I'm the ex-champion because I grew careless. Because Superstar Graham is a thief and cheat.

Amato: Bruno, could you be more specific?

Sammartino: I'll take my answer one by one. I said I was careless. Now let us go back to the end of the match. I had Graham bloody and hurt. I was punching him at will and the referee kept warning me to let him out of the corner. I couldn't believe my ears. I turned my head, looking at

the referee about to argue the point when, wham, Graham upended me. I became careless by forgetting my opponent. I turned my attention away and paid for it.

Amato: You claim Graham is a cheat and a thief.

Sammartino: Right. He didn't pin me rightfully. He used the ropes by placing his feet over the top ropes in the corner, for leverage. The referee failed to see this, so he counted to three. Now Graham knew he cheated but when the referee gave him the belt that Graham took the belt proudly. He stole that belt, pure and simple.

Amato: There was a film of this match. Why wasn't the decision reversed?

Sammartino: My manager Arnold Skoaland and myself protested in writing to the WWWF and they agreed that Graham cheated but their hands were tied. It seems in Maryland, where this match took place, once the referee makes a decision it remains so. So the pin counted regardless of how the pin was applied.

Amato: Surprisingly this match took place in Baltimore rather than Madison Square Garden.

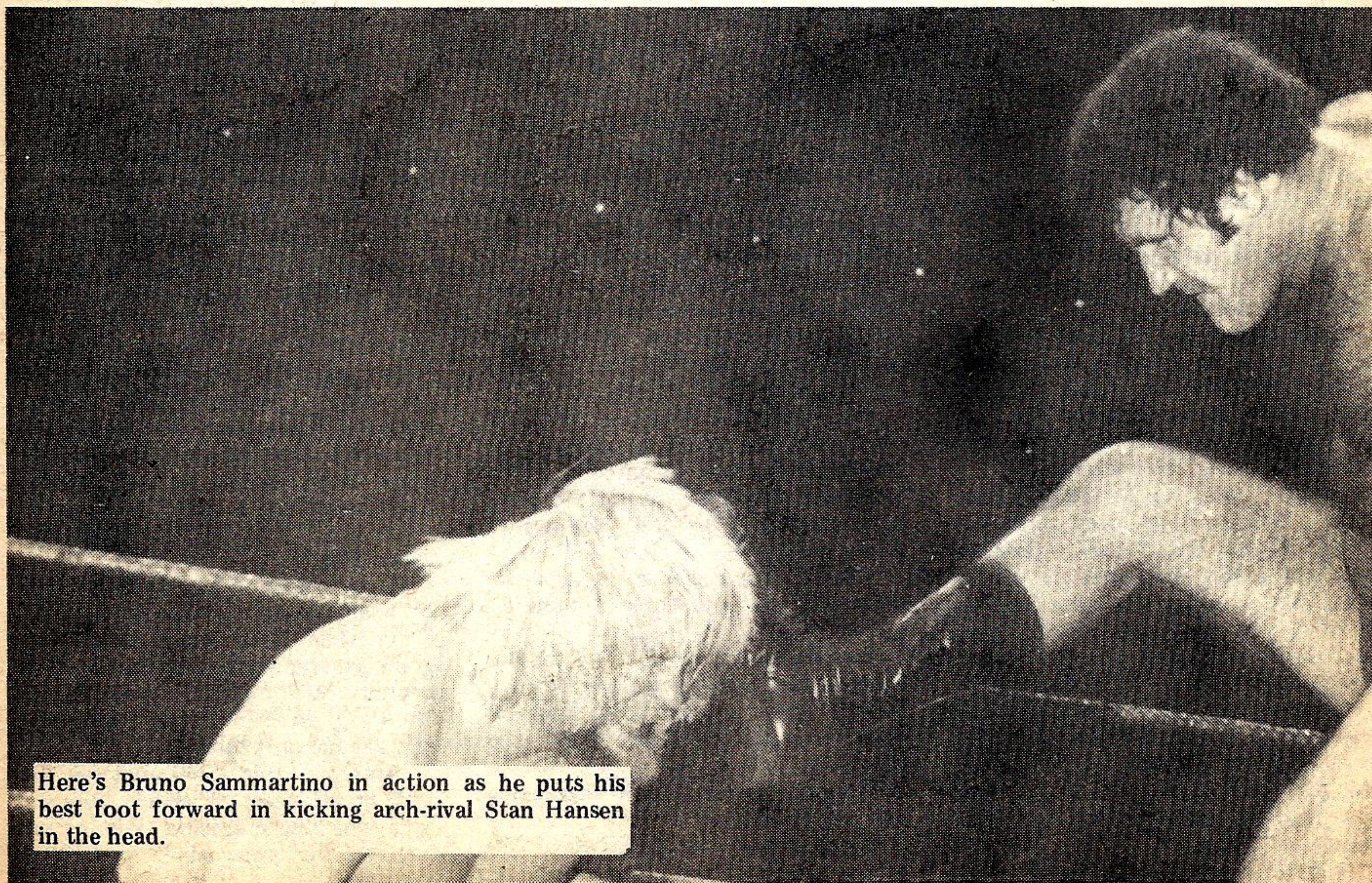
Sammartino: Superstar Graham wanted a title match right away. He



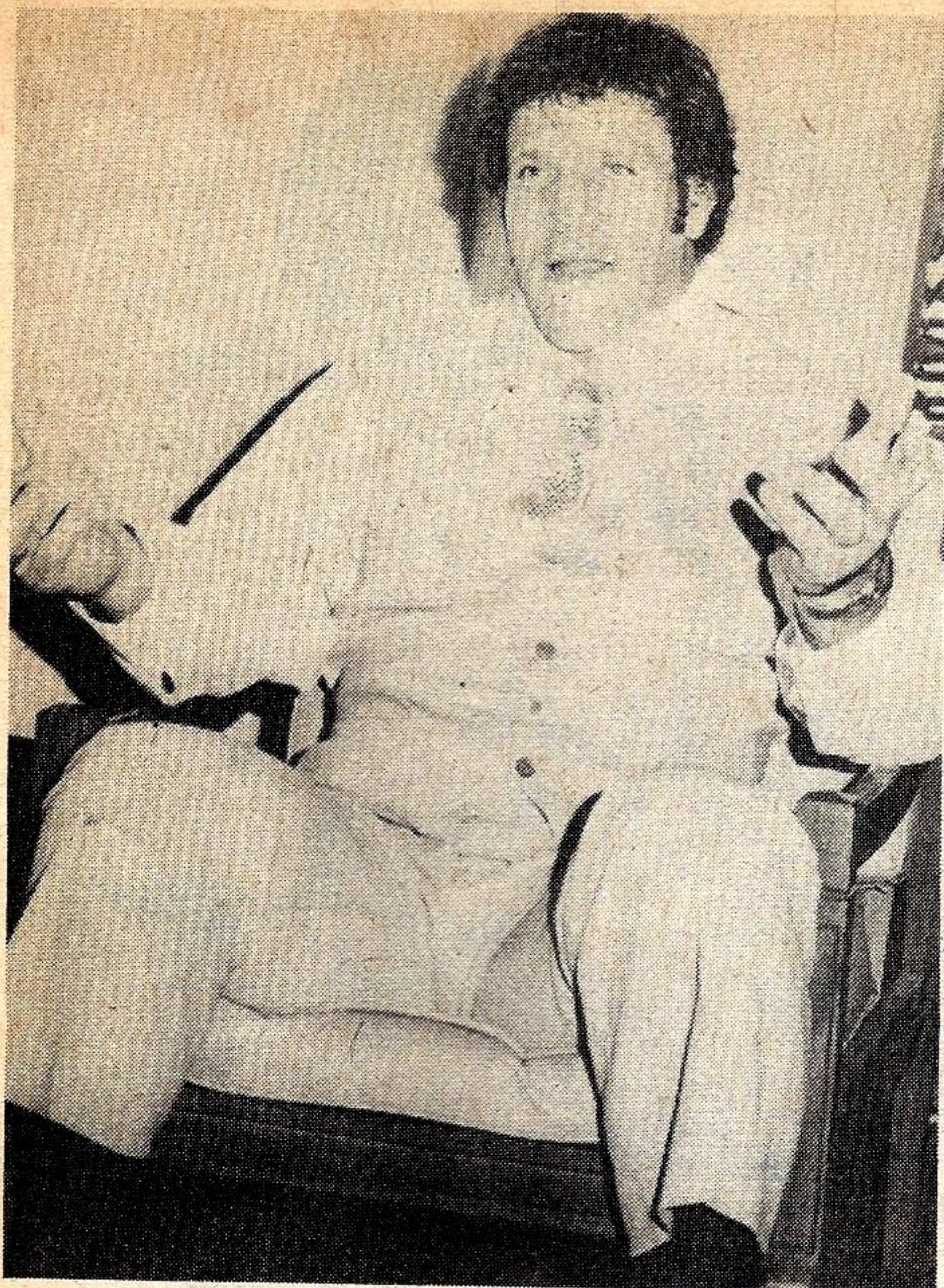
Bruno Sammartino ponders the question about his wrestling future before answering.



Bruno Sammartino breaks out in laughter when he was told that Superstar Billy Graham took credit for softening Bruno up prior to his broken-neck bout with Stan Hansen.



Here's Bruno Sammartino in action as he puts his best foot forward in kicking arch-rival Stan Hansen in the head.



Bruno Sammartino gestures as he explains the only reason he suffered a broken neck against Stan Hansen was because Hansen's 'lariat' was loaded.



"Superstar Billy Graham must score a clear-cut victory over me to prove he's the rightful WWWF champion," says Bruno Sammartino.

didn't want to wait for his turn which would be three or four months. I had just beaten Baron Von Raschke and I was scheduled to meet George Steele.

Amato: You had wrestled Graham before a year ago. Did he wrestle you differently this time?

Sammartino: No. Graham wrestled me the same. He relies on his so-called superstrength. He also relies on trickery. I beat him in strength. The fans saw that in Baltimore. I beat him punch for punch. His trickery won out.

Amato: In April, 1976, Stan Hansen broke your neck with his Lariat. At that time Superstar Graham was still a top challenger. In an article for a wrestling magazine Graham claimed you were ripe to be hurt because he weakened you from your matches with him.

Sammartino: This is nonsense. I was injured by Stan Hansen's Lariat because it was loaded. Graham had nothing to do with it. I was in top physical and mental condition for Hansen.

Amato: In that same article Gra-

ham claimed he would come back to beat you someday. He said he knew how to beat you.

Sammartino: Superstar Graham has a giant ego. He said what all my opponents say after I've beaten them.

Amato: Bruno, earlier this year there appeared an article in a Pittsburgh newspaper with an interview in which you were quoted as saying you would retire by August, 1977.

Sammartino: I remember this article. Actually I said I might retire by August. But I said I wanted to retire, hopefully by the end of the year, as champion. This last part wasn't in the article.

Amato: You are now the ex-champion. Are you still contemplating retiring?

Sammartino: I would like to. But I would like to retire with the WWWF belt. I know I can beat Superstar Graham. I have to prove I'm better than he is.

Amato: If you don't regain the belt will you retire?

Sammartino: I'm at the crossroads of my career. I want the belt back.

I'm chasing Graham right now. I haven't lost a match since I lost the belt. I've beaten Ken Patera, Baron Von Raschke, Stan Stasiak and George Steele to remain the top challenger.

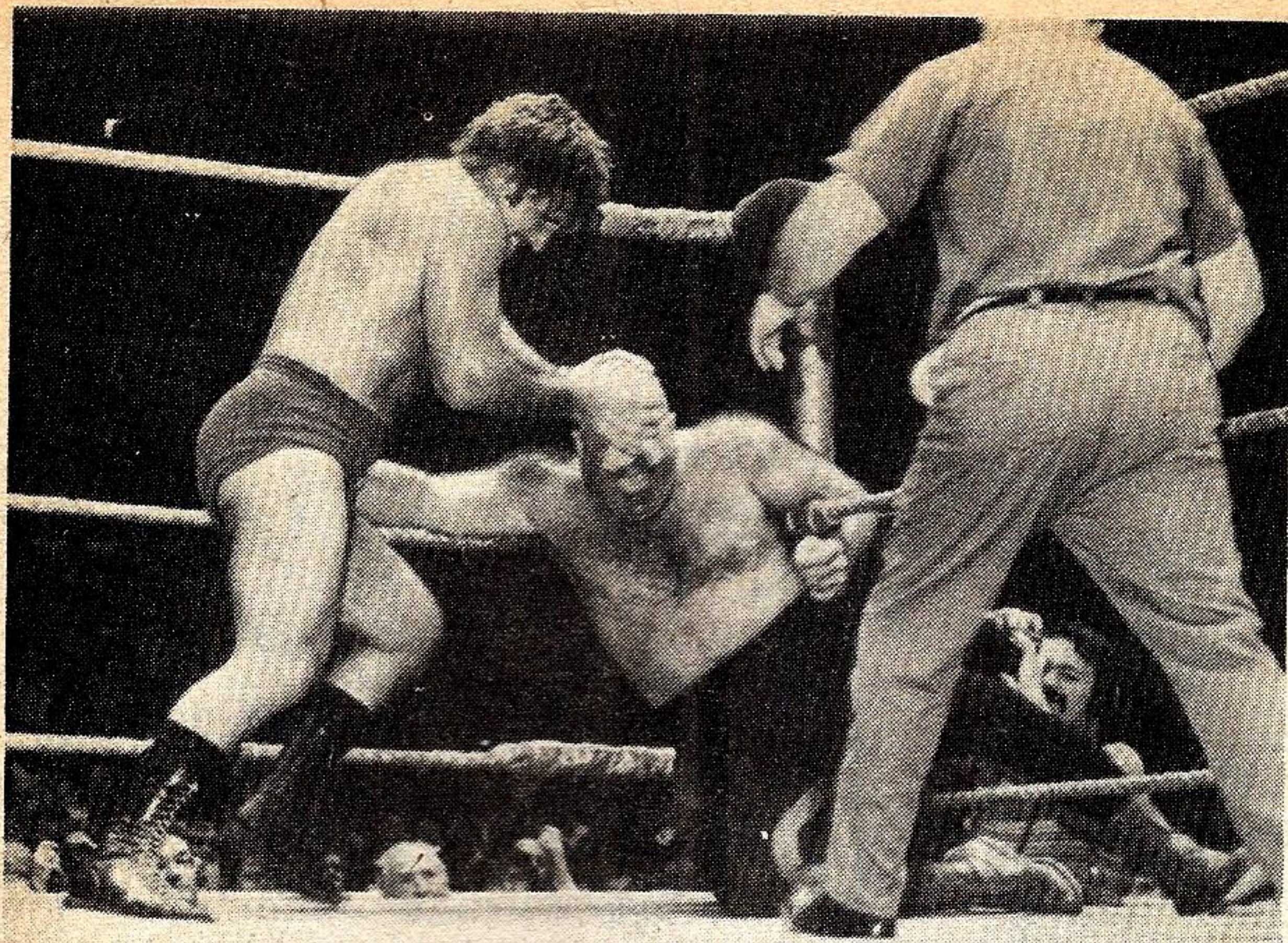
Amato: Why have you contemplated retiring to begin with?

Sammartino: It started with that match with Stan Hansen where he broke my neck. My wife wanted me to retire. I have outside business interests. Then there are my parents who are in their 80s. It broke my heart when they saw me in that hospital. They begged me to quit.

Amato: You didn't quit right away. Why?

Sammartino: I had to come back to beat Hansen. I owed him plenty. Then I had to show my neck was as good as ever against others. So I accepted title matches with Nikolai Volkoff, Bruiser Brody and Stan Hansen and beat them.

Amato: After these matches you just mentioned, an article appeared in a wrestling magazine claiming you weren't the same since you broke your neck.



George (The Animal) Steele gets a taste of his own medicine as Bruno Sammartino fights fire with fire.

Sammartino: That article made me mad. The reporter expressed his own opinion without looking at the facts. I came back and beat Stan Hansen, not once but several times, twice in Steel Cage Matches. I beat Stasiak, Brody, Volkoff and others many times clearly. I beat Brody in a Steel Cage Match. Stasiak in a Sicilian Stretcher Bout. If I wasn't up to par how could I beat these wrestlers?

Amato: So you thought the article was unfair?

Sammartino: Definitely. The reporter obviously had his reasons for writing such an article. I think I disproved his claim by winning my

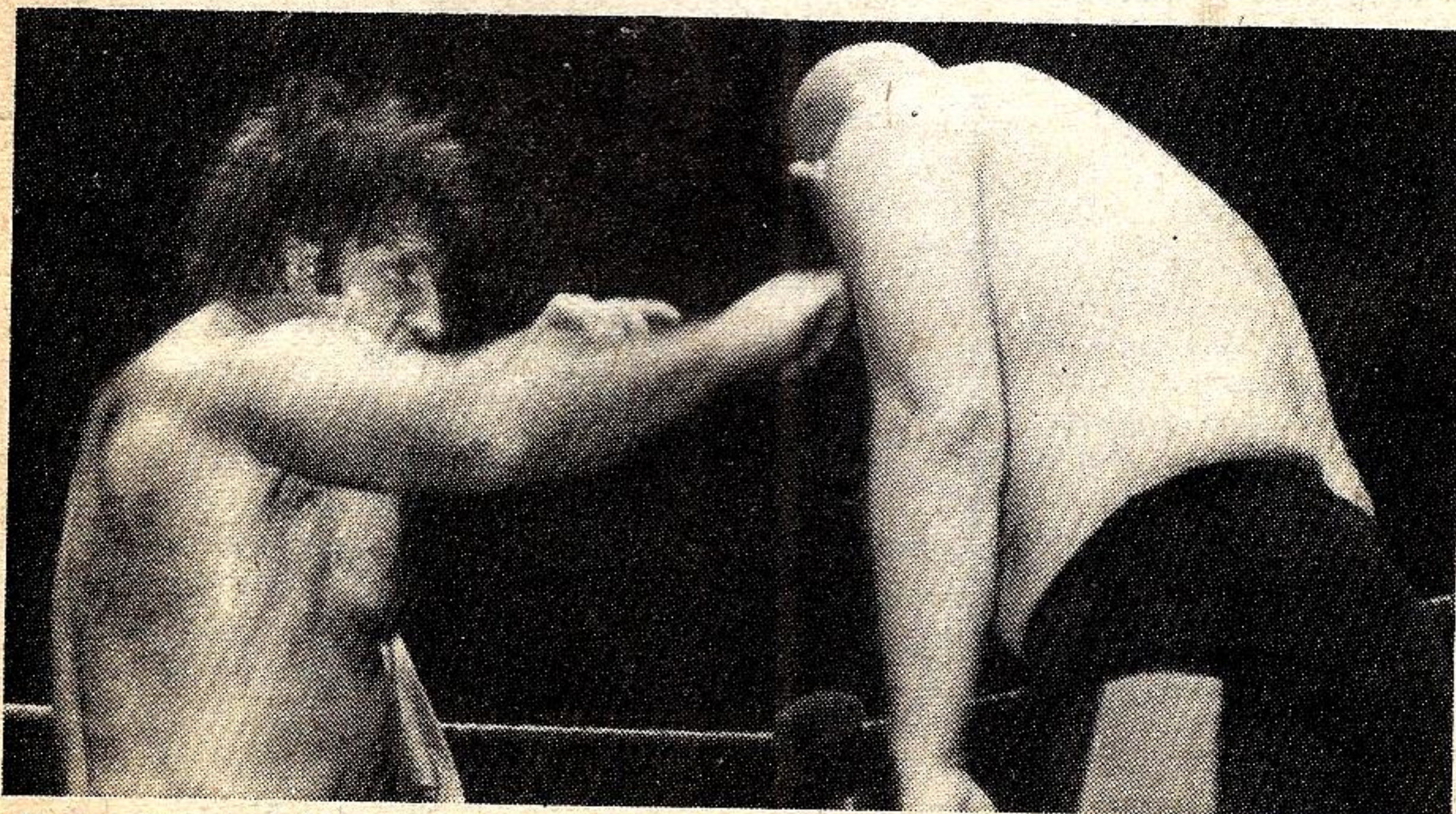
matches.

Amato: How is your neck?

Sammartino: I'm in top physical condition. In fact better than I was before Hansen. Not that I was not in top condition before Hansen. My neck has healed fully. There is no problem with my neck.

Amato: Is Superstar Billy Graham the strongest wrestler you ever faced?

Sammartino: Superstar Graham is strong but the accolades belong to Ken Patera. Patera is the strongest wrestler I've ever faced in my career. I put Joe LeDuc, Ivan Koloff, Superstar Graham, Nikolai Volkoff behind Ken Patera in strength.



Bruno Sammartino has Baron Fritz Von Raschke on queer street as he scores a right to the jaw.

Amato: Let's get back to Superstar Graham. You said earlier you're at the crossroads of your career. What if Superstar Graham pins your shoulders to the mat or makes you submit? Will you still chase Graham?

Sammartino: Superstar Graham won the title by cheating. He hasn't proved he deserves the belt. If he beats me by putting my shoulders to the mat for the three count or makes me submit then he's the rightful champion.

Amato: But Graham didn't win the belt fairly.

Sammartino: Only by beating me clearly can he be recognized as the true WWF champion. The fans know this. I think even Graham deep down knows this. He has the belt as I talk to you but only a clear-cut victory over me will cement his title claim.

Amato: Lately you have been making appearances outside the WWF.

Sammartino: Yes. I have wrestled in Texas, Canada and other areas. The promoters have offered me big fees. I can't pass that up.

Amato: If you fail to win back the WWF belt will you travel outside the WWF?

Sammartino: I'm traveling now. What the future holds I don't know. I'd like to retire, ex-champion or champion. After all everyone must retire someday.

Amato: If you fail to win back the WWF belt whom do you believe can defeat Superstar Graham?

Sammartino: There is Chief Peter Maivia. He has all the right credentials and is an excellent wrestler. There is also Chief Jay Strongbow; Professor Toru Tanaka, Ken Patera, George Steele and Bob Backlund. All have excellent chances to win the belt.

Amato: There is much being written about Bob Backlund as your possible successor.

Sammartino: Bob Backlund is very good. I've seen him in many matches. I think he can give Graham a tough bout. He has just as good a chance to win the belt as the others.

Amato: Is there anyone else?

Sammartino: Bruno Sammartino.

Amato: With that I think we'll end this interview. I hope the fans will enjoy this article and remember your answers.

Sammartino: I'm glad to clear up the air about the title match and about my retirement. I love my fans. They have been behind me 100 per cent. This interview has been my pleasure. Anytime.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WRESTLING PHOTOS

By DON FREEDMAN

EDITOR'S NOTE — This is the first in a series prepared by professional wrestling photographer Don Freedman especially for *Wrestling Monthly*, *Wrestling Revue*, and *Big Book of Wrestling*. In every issue we'll feature photos from Don's collection of shots, taken over the years in the U.S.A. and Canada. This series will be done alphabetically, in encyclopedia style, and will include interesting notes on the pictures and wrestlers shown. Your comments are welcome.

It seems fitting that the first man in the Encyclopedia of Wrestling is also the biggest man in the sport. In all of my years as a fan and photographer of sports I've never seen a more impressive physical specimen than **ANDRE THE GIANT**. At 7-foot-4, 475 pounds, this Frenchman is a tremendous favorite of mat fans' throughout the world. Also known as Jean Ferre and Andre Rousimoff,

he was offered a tryout by the National Football League's Washington Redskins a few years ago. Here Andre is shown alone, against villains Jimmy Valiant and Waldo Von Erich, and raising the hand of his friend Bruno Sammartino.

GENE ANDERSON (bleeding) and his brother, **OLE**, are a pair of rough and tumble matmen who have spent most of their time wreaking havoc in Carolina-Virginia rings. Fans in that area remember their feuds with the likes of Paul Jones, Wahoo McDaniels, Rufus R. Jones and Nelson Royal.

Once a highly regarded bad guy, **TONY ANGELO** began managing that type of grappler a few years ago. From time to time, though, Tony will don the trunks and step back into the ring. Tony says simply, "Being on the outside just don't compare to being in there on yer

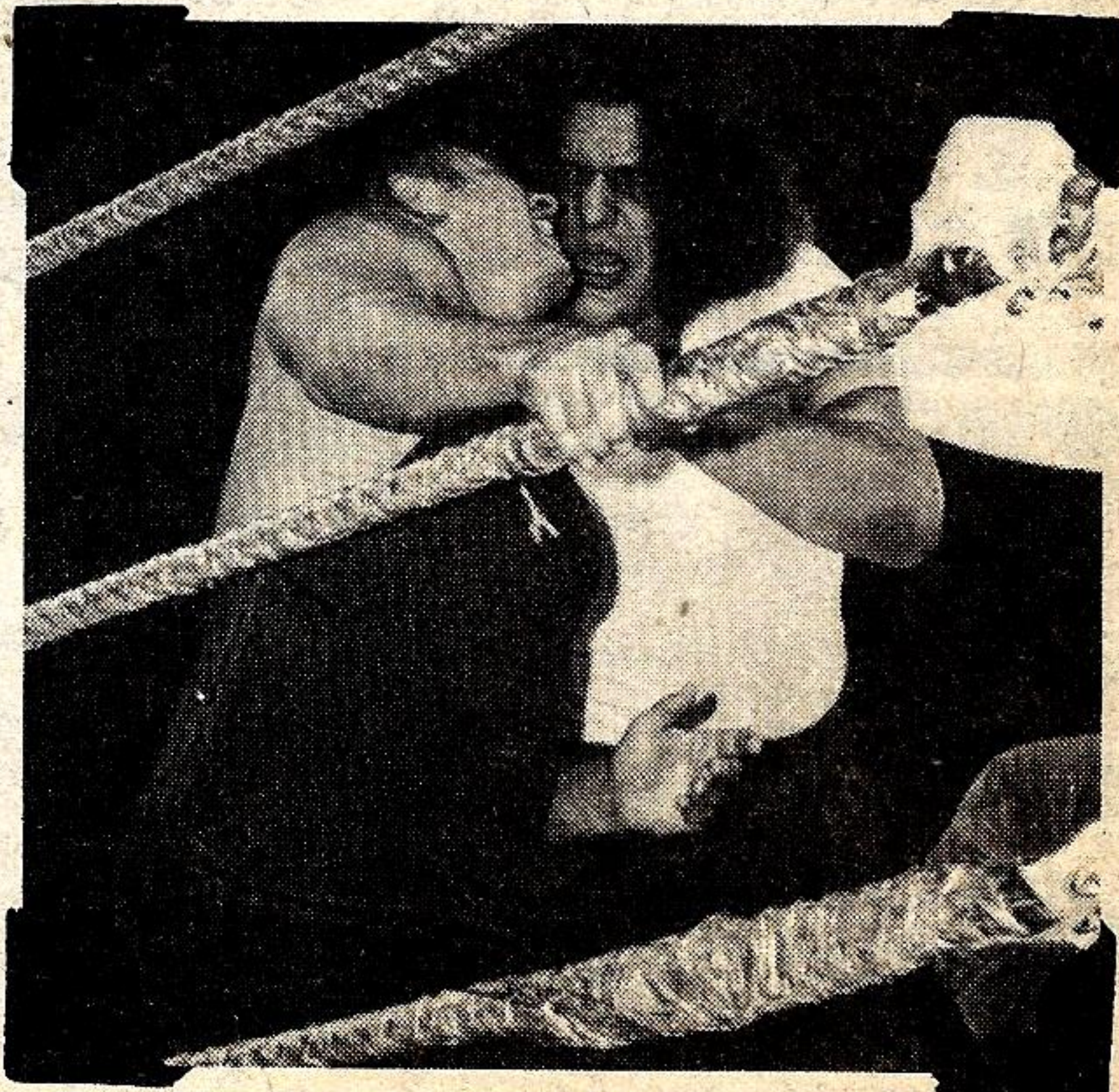
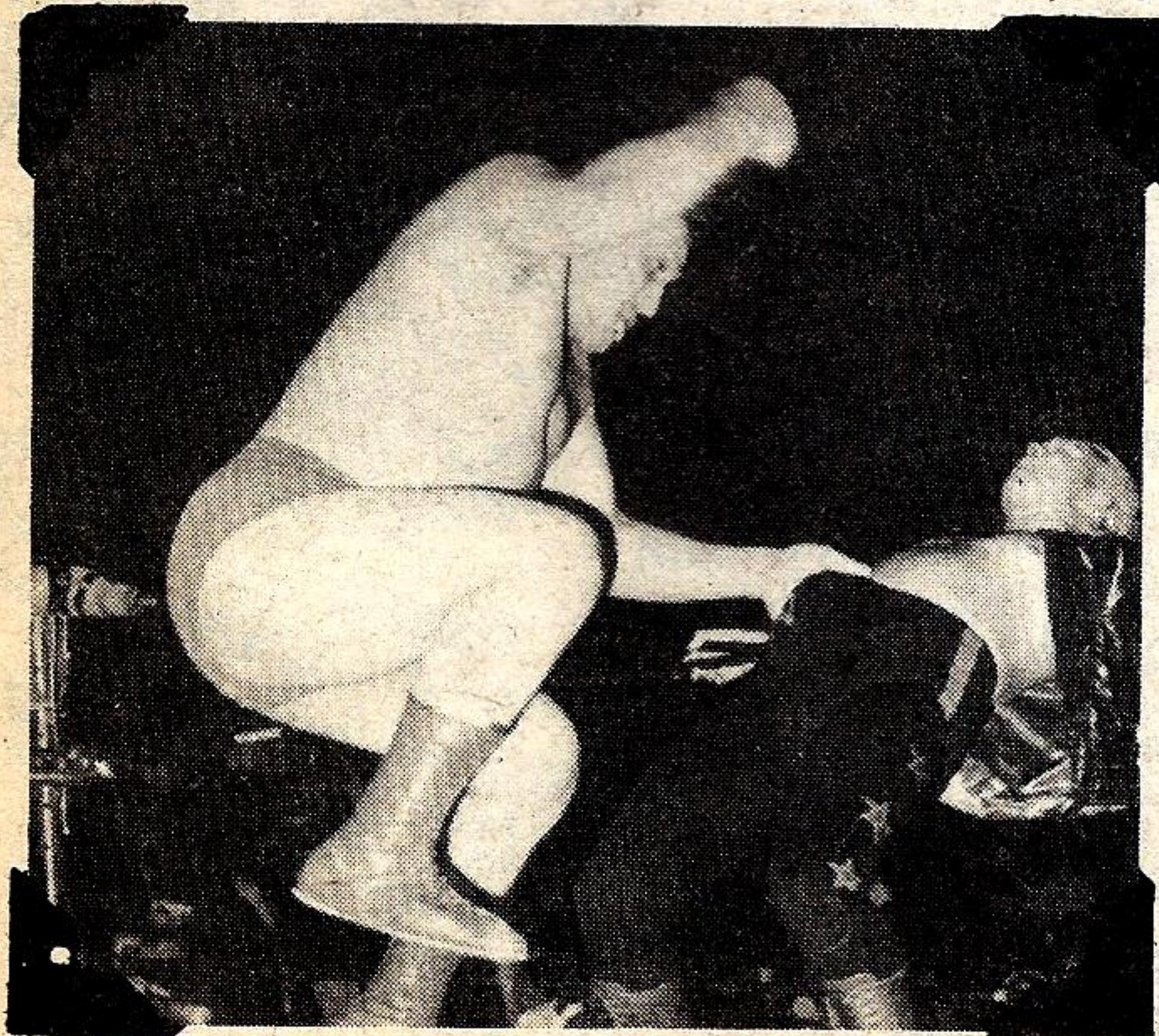
own!"

SPIROS ARION calls himself the Golden Greek, as do many of today's stars from Greece, such as Chris Tolos. Popular Tony Garea sees no reason to treat the golden one with care though, as evidenced by this shot.

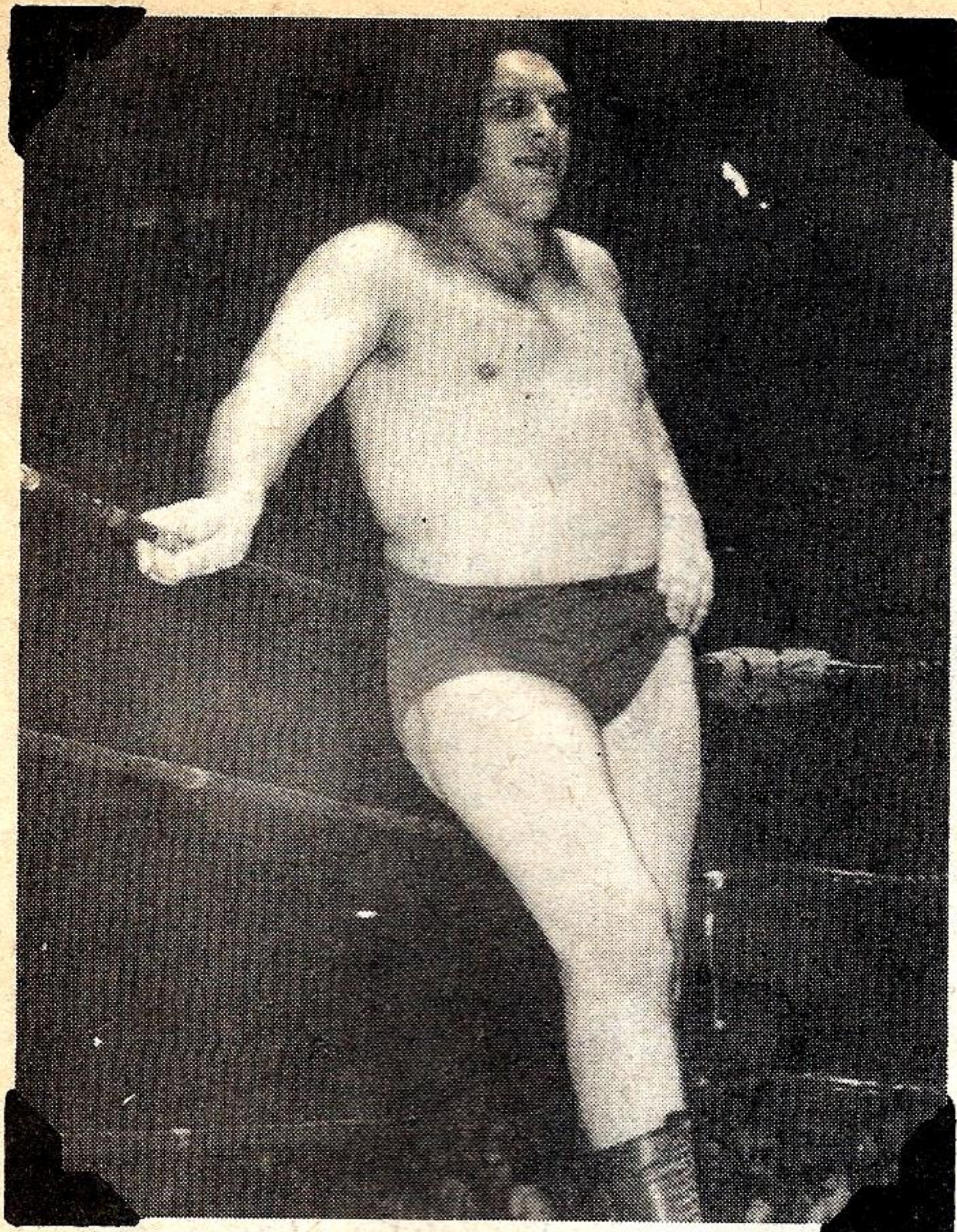
Fans interested in obtaining any of these photos, along with a complete listing of available shots, can write to the author at Box 630 Granville East, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27514. Send \$.25 per photo desired and stamps to cover postage.

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See next month's **WRESTLING MONTHLY** for the next in this series, including Oc Baker, The Beast, Brute Bernard, Bobo Brazil, Tim "Killer" Brooks, Dick "Bulldog" Brewer, and more!!!



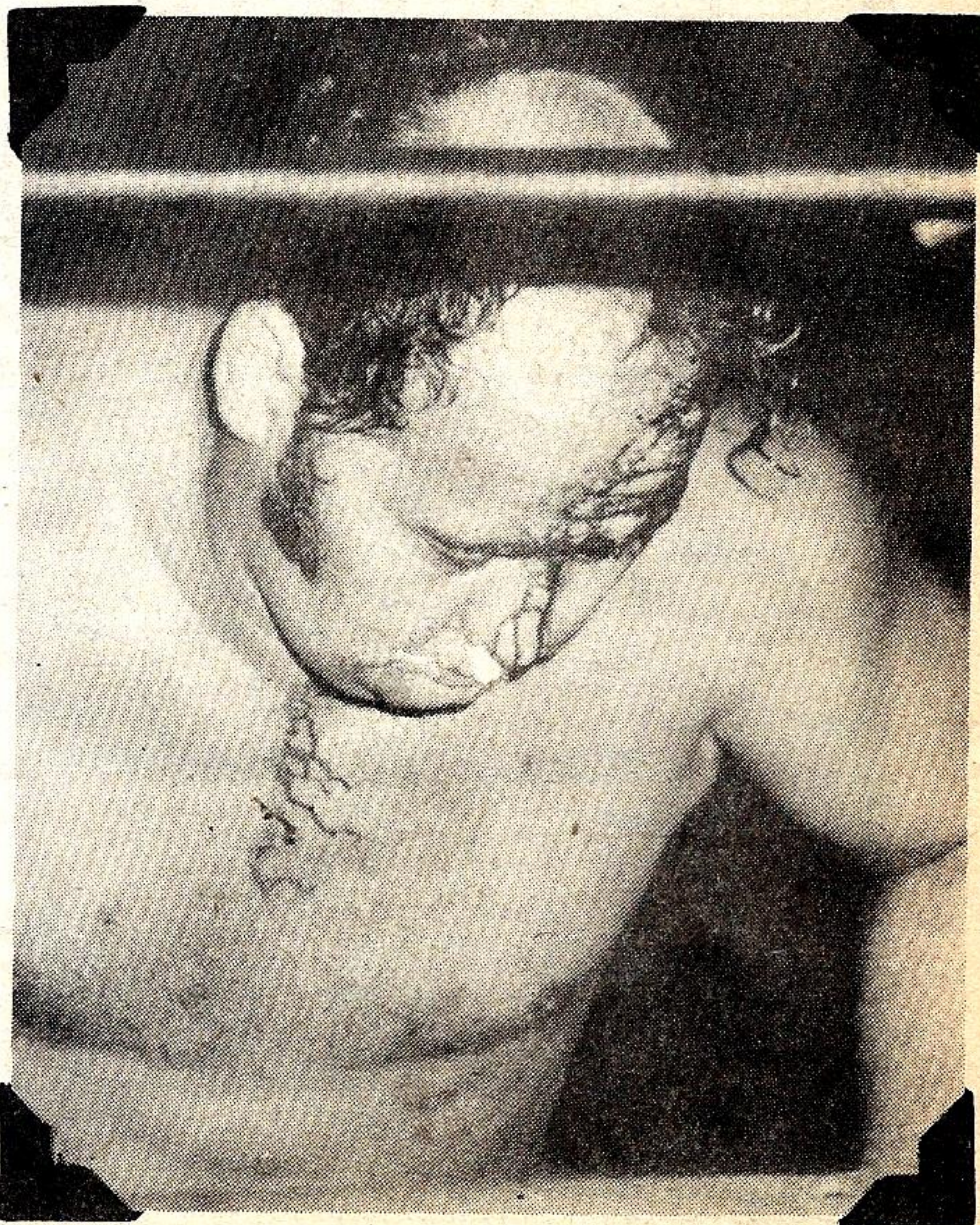
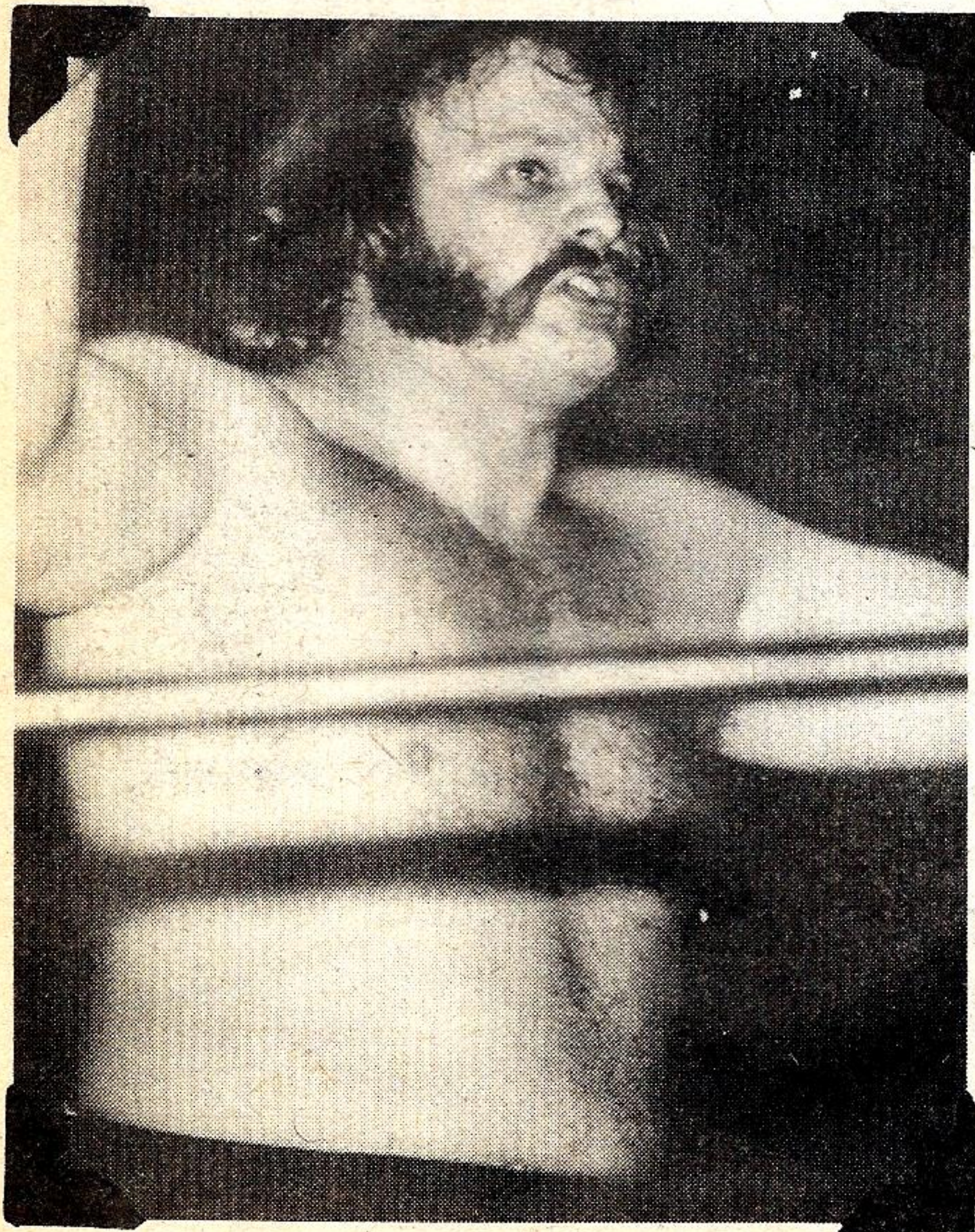
Andre The Giant is in action here as he delivers a haymaker to the midsection of Jimmy Valiant in photo on the left. Then, an irate Andre comes out of the crowd to attack Waldo Von Erich.



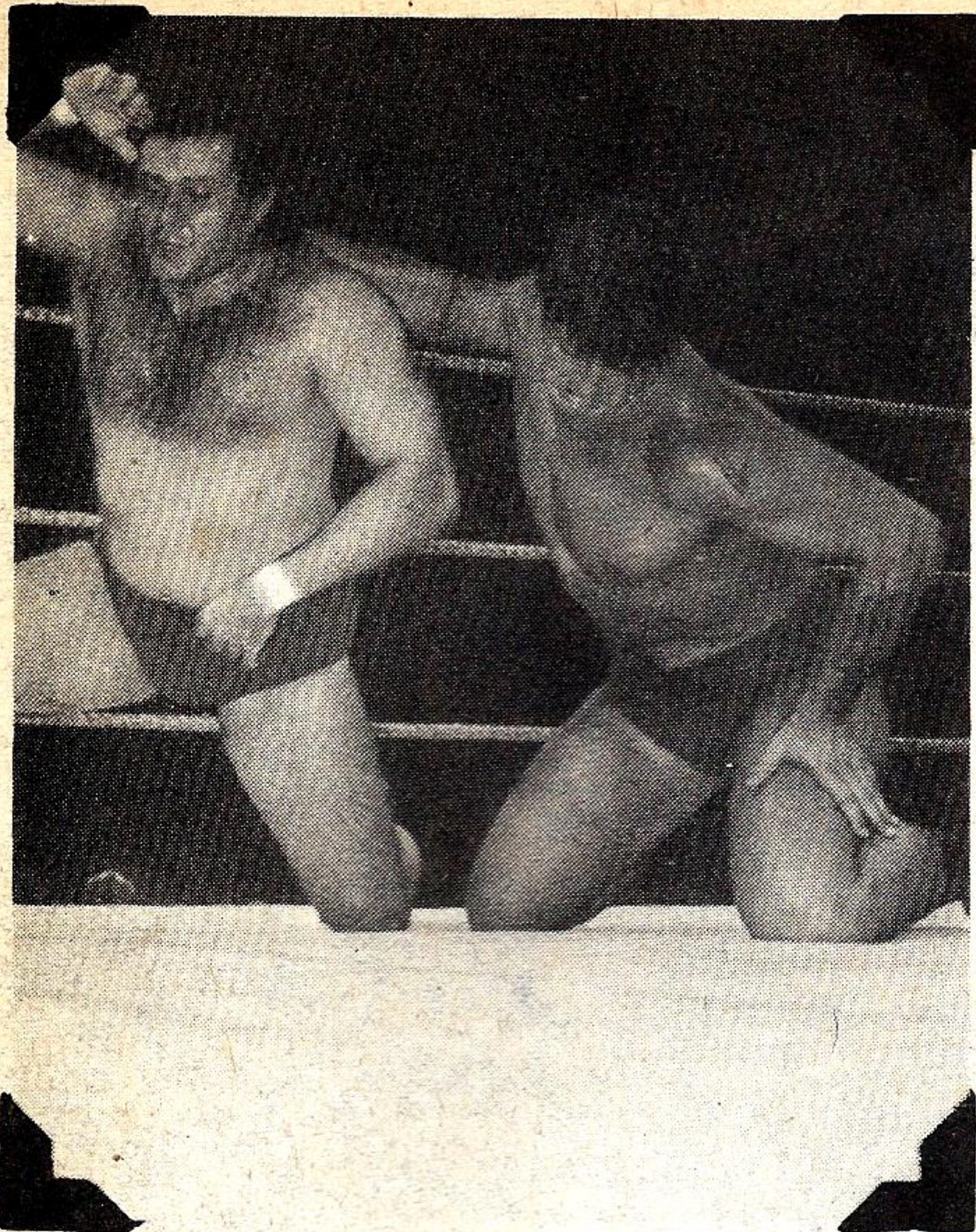
Andre The Giant rests his 7-foot-4, 475-pound frame against the ropes as he awaits his introduction.



Andre The Giant (right) raises the arm of his friend Bruno Sammartino in victory while Sammartino's manager Arnold Skaaland looks on.



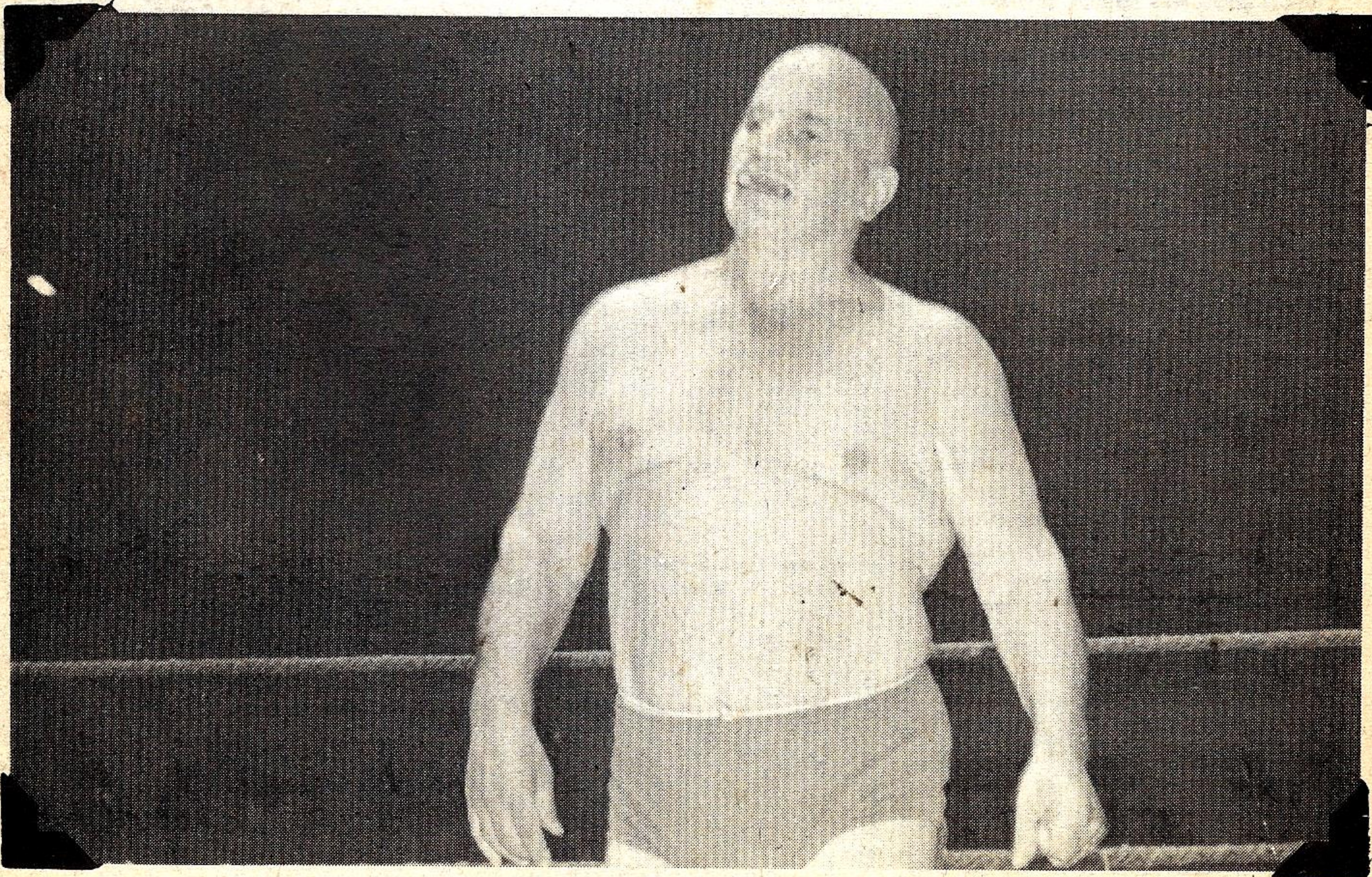
The Anderson brothers, Ole (left) and a bloodied Gene are one of the grappling game's top tag-team combinations.



Here Spiros Arion is about to be slammed head first into the canvas by Tony Garea.



Another in the long line of successful Greek grapplers is Spiros Arion.



Although he is best known as a manager, Tony Angelo still likes to don the trunks and wrestle occasionally.

gossipin' ALONG WRESTLING'S grapevine



By EARLE YETTER

In the modern hectic and oftentimes turbulent world of professional wrestling, it must be admitted that the fanatical and frenzied wrestling fans of the present era help to keep the sport in the foreground of the sports curriculum. No matter what drawbacks pro wrestling might encounter it seems there is always a way of keeping interest in this oldest of sports. Promoters appear to have the answer for any predicament that appears on the horizon and they concoct ways and means of keeping the interest of the fans ever in the forefront of their promotions.

Newcomers to the sport are cropping up all around the North American continent. All of this is an asset to the future well-being of pro wrestling because they are taking the places of those veterans of the mat who have decided to hang up their trunks and call it a day as far as future active campaigning is concerned.

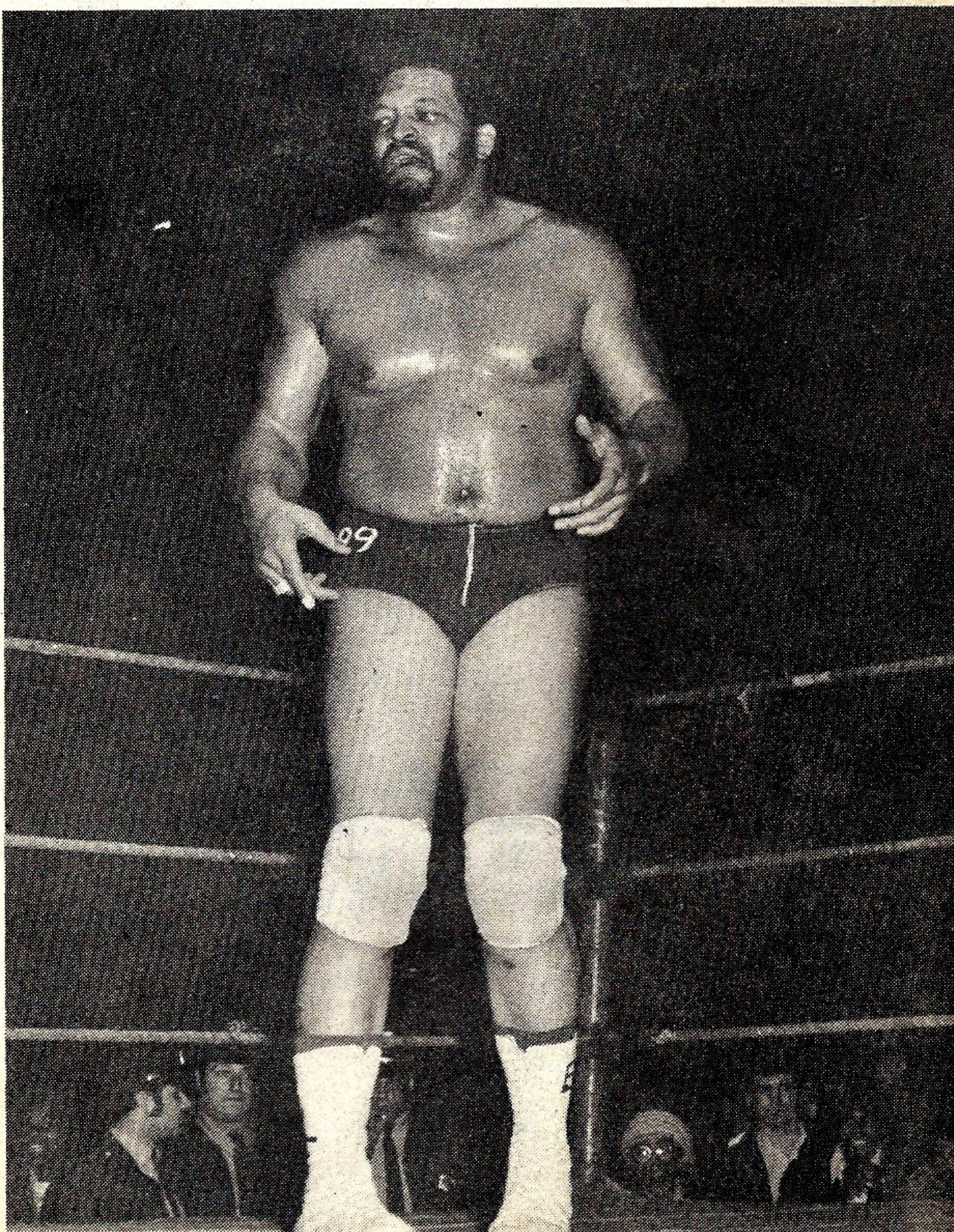
While it is a bit nostalgic to see some of the veterans of the mat retiring to more peaceful pursuits in life, it appears that the splendid response of eager recruits to the pro wrestling ranks will strike a popular chord on the part of a new regime of wrestling followers who have placed wrestling programs as a must on their sports agenda. This is a good omen that wrestling will continue to draw many more new fans into the fold as the season progresses.

To the average wrestling fan the

sport of wrestling seems to be an easy task. To the contrary, it is one of the most perilous in the sports curriculum.

A wrestler today before he becomes a star must pay the price for his fame in self-denial by giving up many things that he otherwise would enjoy. When an athlete decides that he would like to become a wrestler he must first go through a rugged routine of gym workouts for months in order to get his body into condition to withstand the turbulent lessons he will have to undergo to a professional mat artist.

He is faced with the necessity of strenuous physical endeavors as he goes about the task of preparing him-



Ernie Ladd gave up the football field for the wrestling ring and now some feel Ladd should try his luck as an actor.

self for a career which will finally mean his livelihood and future well-being. If he goes to high school or college, he naturally joins the wrestling team to obtain the necessary instructions so vital to his success.

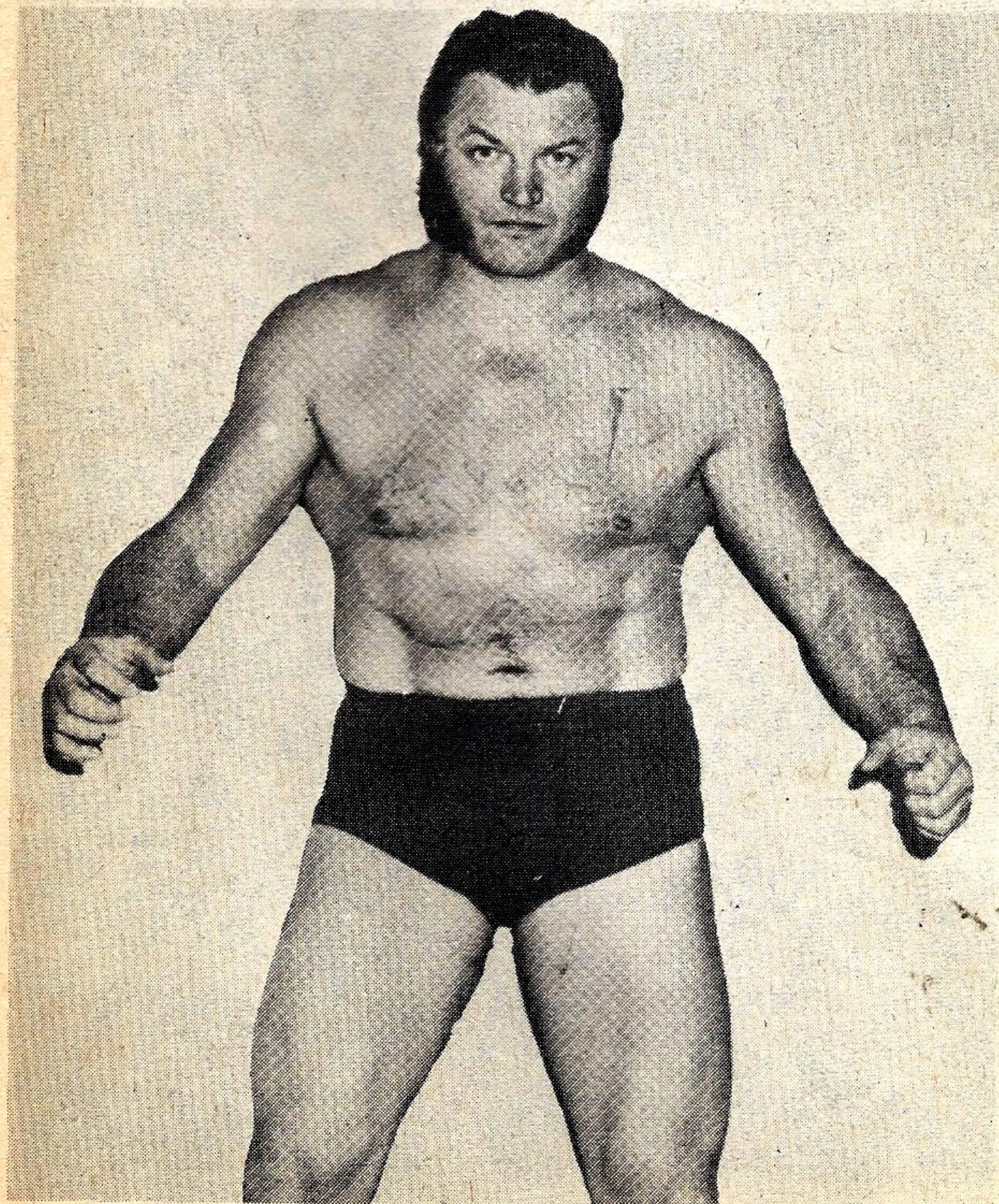
Upon completion of his education, he is required to take up amateur wrestling, at which time he is taught many holds and the counters for those holds. He learns the science of balance and leverage so that he can teach his reflexes to do his bidding.

Sometimes he spends three or four years as an amateur grappler, before he entertains the notion of becoming professional. If he succeeds in his amateur training it is much to his advantage and it is at this point that the big decision must be made.

After months of preparation he begins to feel that he is ready for the opportunity of becoming a profes-



When it comes to wrestling strongmen, Bulldog Brower, shown here with an arm bar on Angelo Mosca, has to rank near the top.



The three-time world champion Don Leo Jonathan, who stands 6-foot-7 and weighs over 300 pounds, can match holds and strength with any of the matmen.

sional. The transition from an amateur to a pro career will be either the making or the breaking of his ambition. If he has what it takes to succeed then he has a 50-50 chance of staying with the task and eventually coming out on top.

So, he finishes his amateur training and is confident and ready to make his debut in the pro forces. He accepts his first professional match and after it is over he begins to take stock of himself... "Is it all worthwhile?... Can I make the grade as a pro or not?" he asks himself.

This is where courage, if he possesses any, comes to his aid. Confidence in his ability is also a prime requisite at this stage of the game. So, he participates in another match and finds that he is well able to take care of himself. He wins the match and has gained additional courage in victory. Now, he does not hesitate to decide that wrestling will become his life's work. He strives constantly in every match, yes, he gives his best every time he enters the ring for battle, but sometimes even that is not enough.

This is the crucial point of his career. The next two years will tell the tale. Either he will be a successful matman or he will quit in disgust. So, those of you who think that wrestling is all glamour and notoriety for the individual involved certainly have another think coming.

The ones who survive the ordeal are those who continue in spite of injuries and hardships and setbacks.

They have the courage to continue and, in the end, they are entitled to success in their chosen field of endeavor. All we can say is that it takes real courage to become a pro wrestler.

During these hectic days, the average person needs a certain amount of recreation. There are many ways in which you can become interested in certain things. Some take up photography, others become expert woodworkers while others take to the hobby of ceramics.

While some people can find ways to while away their leisure time, there are others who prefer sports. In this category are the wrestling fans. They make wrestling night their night out and with many it has become a habit.

They seek this means of relaxing, blowing off some excess steam, or releasing themselves from their pent-up emotions during their workaday existences but after a wrestling match they all feel better.

From time to time, you come across some people who go out of their way to ridicule the sport of wrestling. They say that wrestling is a game for hard-boiled uncouth mastodons who possess more brawn than brains.

The writer wishes to take issue with that statement. The records dispense the fact that the modern wrestler possesses a higher IQ than athletes in any other sport. It has been found that nine out of 10 professional wrestlers today are college graduates with degrees.

In the ranks of professional wrestlers you will find artists, agricultural experts, engineers, woodworkers and scores of other professions. Many of them take to the wrestling ring in order to obtain future security from the purses they receive. When the grind of wrestling begins to take its toll on their bodies, they can then turn to a profession or take up a more peaceful pursuit.

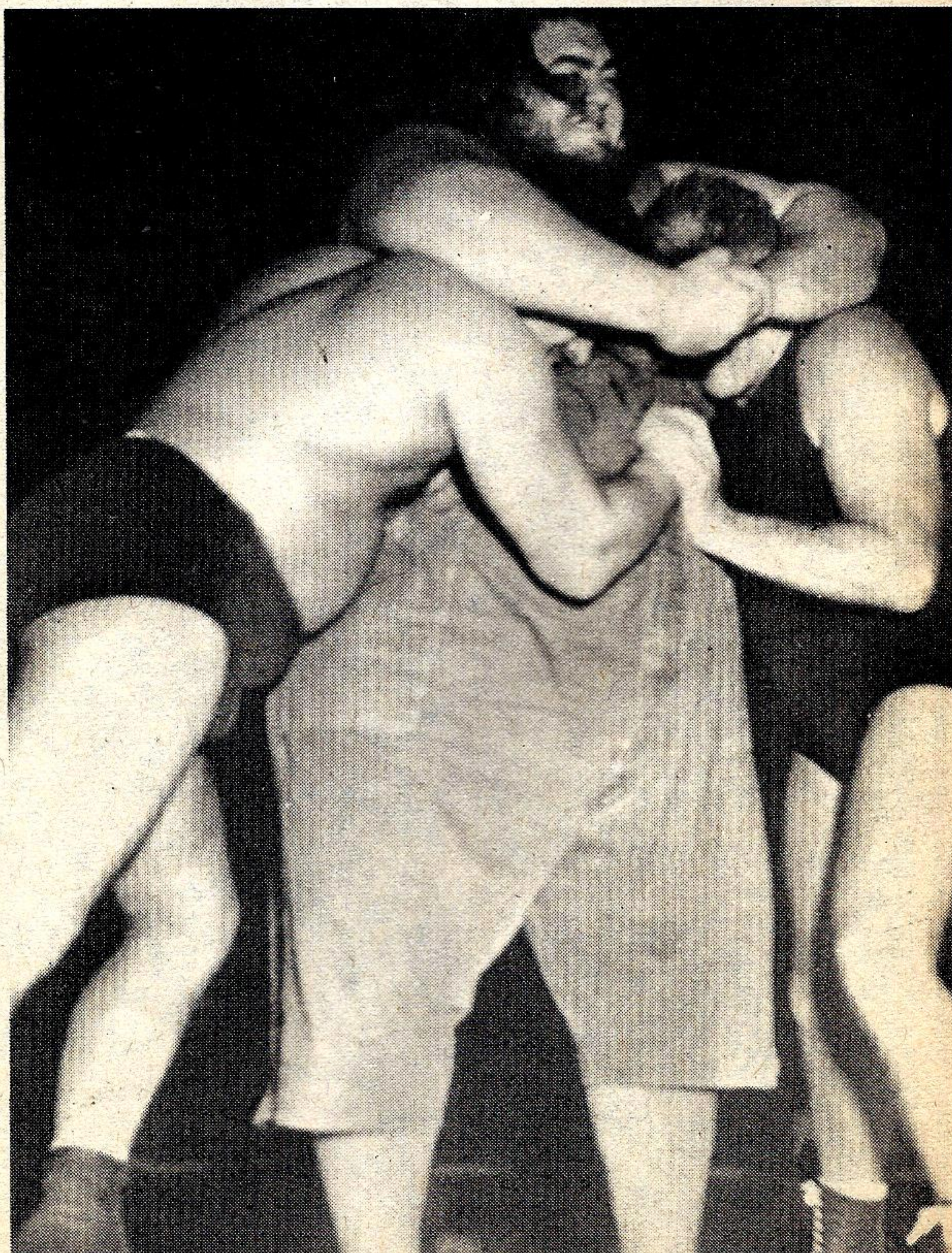
Wrestling is giving its loyal devotees 100 per cent on the dollar and when promoters can do that people will always support their efforts.

That is why 24,000,000 patrons of wrestling paid their way into more than 540 arenas last year.

It is the wrestler's trademark that sends the patrons through the turnstiles in hordes, no matter whether he is a slant-eyed sneaky Oriental, a former rodeo performer, a gridiron star or some new sensation. They all go into that ring... yes, they pant, they pound, they groan, they collapse and then revive and they twang emotion's harp with every heaving breath... yes, they wrestle and they get hurt, but the thing to remember is that a wrestler is what you would like him to be... he is great, sometimes he is a cad but he is also a kind person.

Keep all these things in mind the next time a critic almost blows a lung valve trying to malign the ancient mat art. Do him a favor. Buy the guy a ringside ticket and let him see first hand what is being perpetrated in the ring. Chances are he'll want to come back for a second helping.

The controversial, the bizarre, the glamorous, the down-trodden are all there right in front of you. The wrestlers go into that ring to entertain you and when they do they actually take their lives in their hands. You are all entitled to your opinion as to whether pro wrestling is on the up-and-up or not, but as long as critics of wrestling can be converted into becoming regular patrons, well,



One man isn't opposition enough for Haystack Calhoun so he often takes on two men at the same time, but these two obviously aren't doubling their pleasure or doubling their fun as Calhoun has them both in a headlock.

wrestling is here to stay.

Wrestling fans are a curious collection of sports followers. They expect the writer to foretell what is going to happen in the business during the present season. They want to know who is the strongest wrestler. That is something that would have to be demonstrated in a tournament, if such a spectacle can be arranged.

Among those considered to be outstanding in that category are such figures as Dick (Bulldog) Brower, Don Leo Jonathan, Ivan Koloff, Haystack Calhoun, Billy Graham, Ernie Ladd, Gene Kiniski, Mighty Igor, Bobo Brazil, Oscar Verdu, the Black Jacks, Mulligan and Lanza, Eric The Animal. A tournament between these gallant performers would provide the only answer to the question.

I have seen Bulldog Brower lift 500 pounds in a televised exhibition. I have seen Don Leo Jonathan lift

546-pound Haystack Calhoun and toss him violently to the mat. I have seen Bruno Sammartino toss opponents from pillar to post, so the strongest man on the mat will have to remain a mystery for the present.

When Ernie Ladd decided to give up his professional gridiron career to take up pro wrestling as his livelihood, it goes without saying, he was determined he would become one of the greatest in his chosen field. That he has accomplished that objective cannot be denied as he holds victories over some of the greatest present-day stars of the mat.

In a chat with the big fellow not so long ago I suggested to him that he should go to Hollywood and try his luck in the movies.

"Oh! No, that's not for me," replied Ernie but I could see in his piercing eyes that for a moment or two he was giving it some thought. It is true that during the course of a match a participant can run the

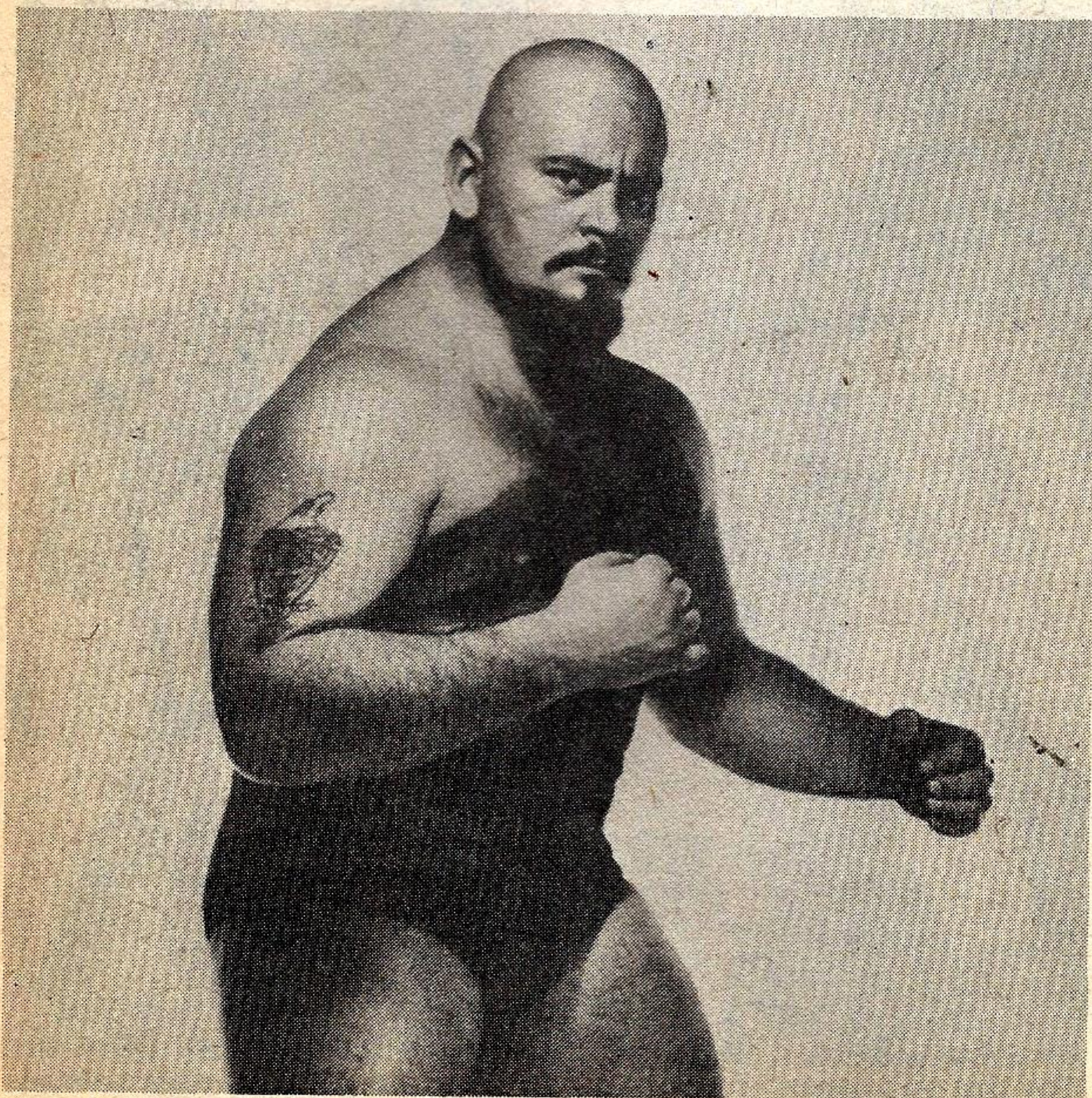
entire gamut of emotions. Ladd has the courage of his convictions and he is confident of his ability when the bell rings to bring him face to face with an adversary.

I have followed many of Ladd's matches and during the turmoil, sweat and blood of a match I have seen him express consternation, exasperation, humiliation and despair in almost continuous episodes. All of this proves that within his huge frame lies a talent that should be exhibited to the world because he is professional in every sense of the word.

The marvelous achievements of such black actors as Sidney Poitier, Woody Strode, Jimmy Brown and Redd Foxx should be the needed incentive for Ladd to consider a possible movie career in the future. The writer is one who feels he can make the grade as a movie actor and that is not just a passing fancy on my part because Ernie has the ability and the talent to make an entirely new career for himself. Perhaps some day he may consider taking that step.

Overnight changes are occurring in the ranks of pro wrestling. Will the champions of the different factions hold onto their crowns or will they be replaced by successors? All this remains to be seen so if you want to keep up with the happenings in pro wrestling your best bet is to subscribe to Wrestling Monthly magazine and save money. You can get a one year's subscription of 12 issues for \$10 through the mail. So, sit down now and write out your check or money order. You won't be disappointed, if you send it to Fax Publishing Inc., 225 Roy St., Montreal, Canada H2W 1M5.

When inquiring about wrestling, wrestlers and wrestler's pictures, kindly include a self-addressed stamped envelope for your replies. This is a request because of my huge volume of mail. If readers of Wrestling Monthly are interested in obtaining my catalogue of over 400 wrestlers in posed and action shots, kindly forward a self-addressed stamped envelope. The writer can be contacted at 138 Lockwood Ave., Buffalo, N.Y., 14220. So long for now and take care of yourself.

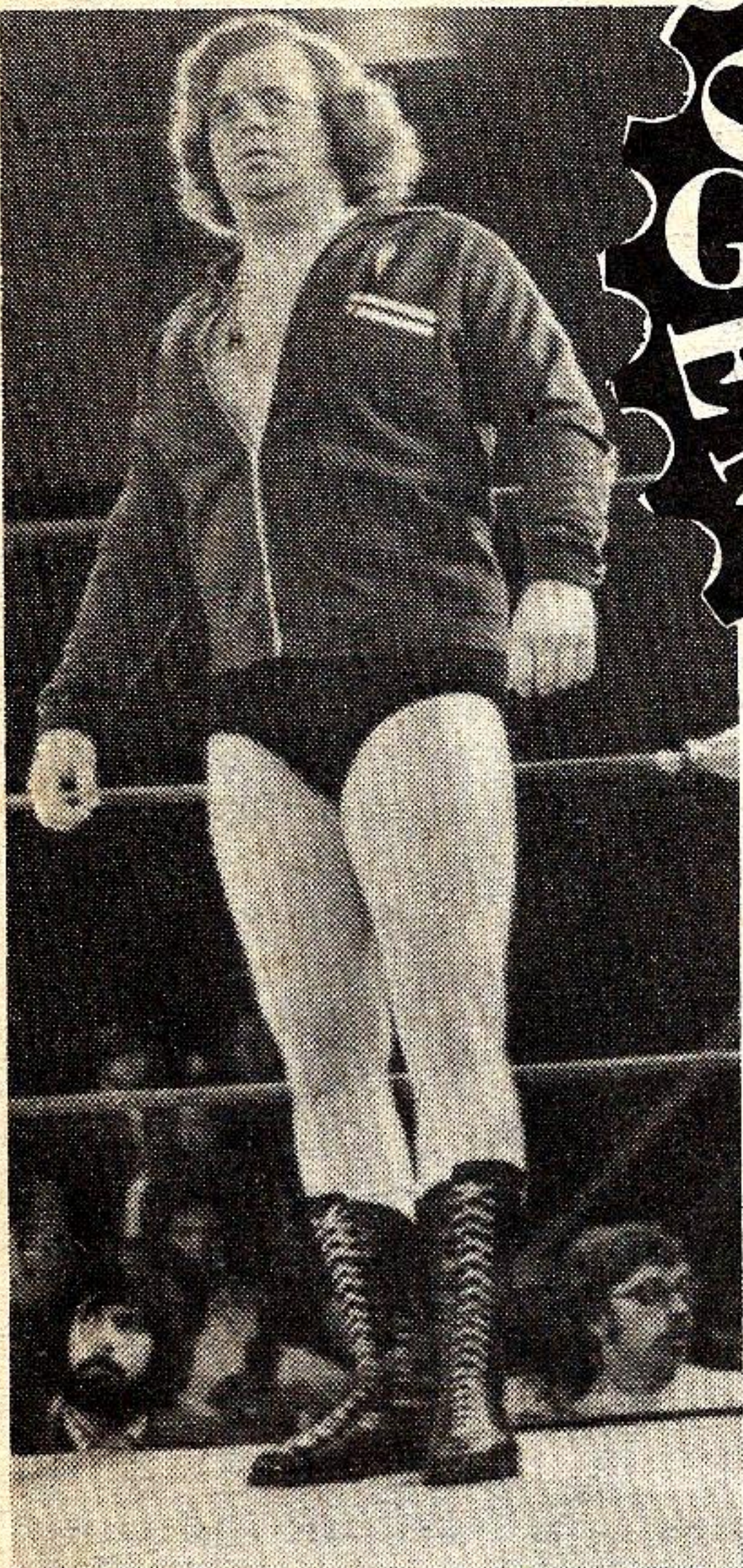


Ivan Koloff is another grappler who can hold his own either at wrestling or at tests of strength.

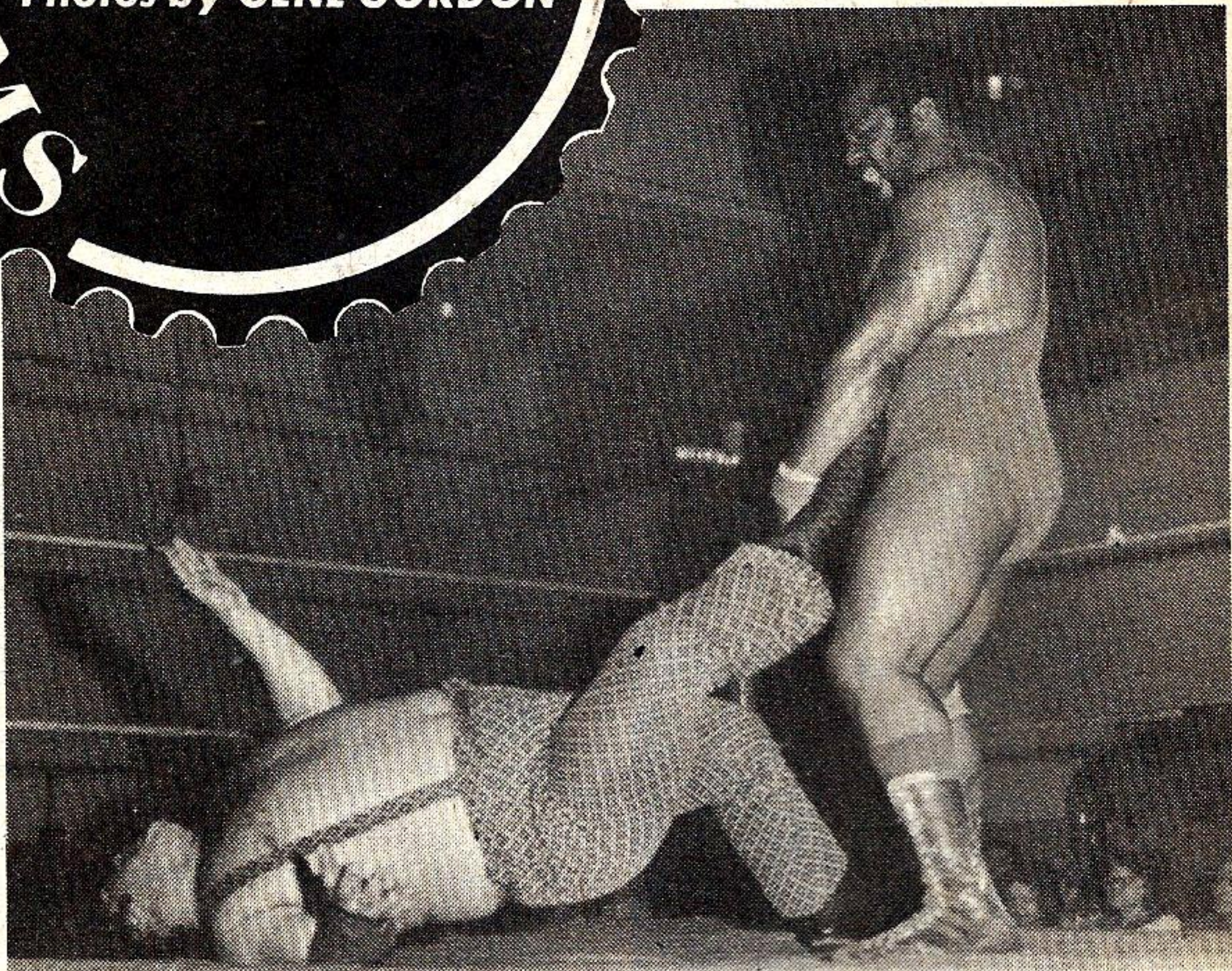
GORDON'S GRAPPLIN' FEMES

Photos by GENE GORDON

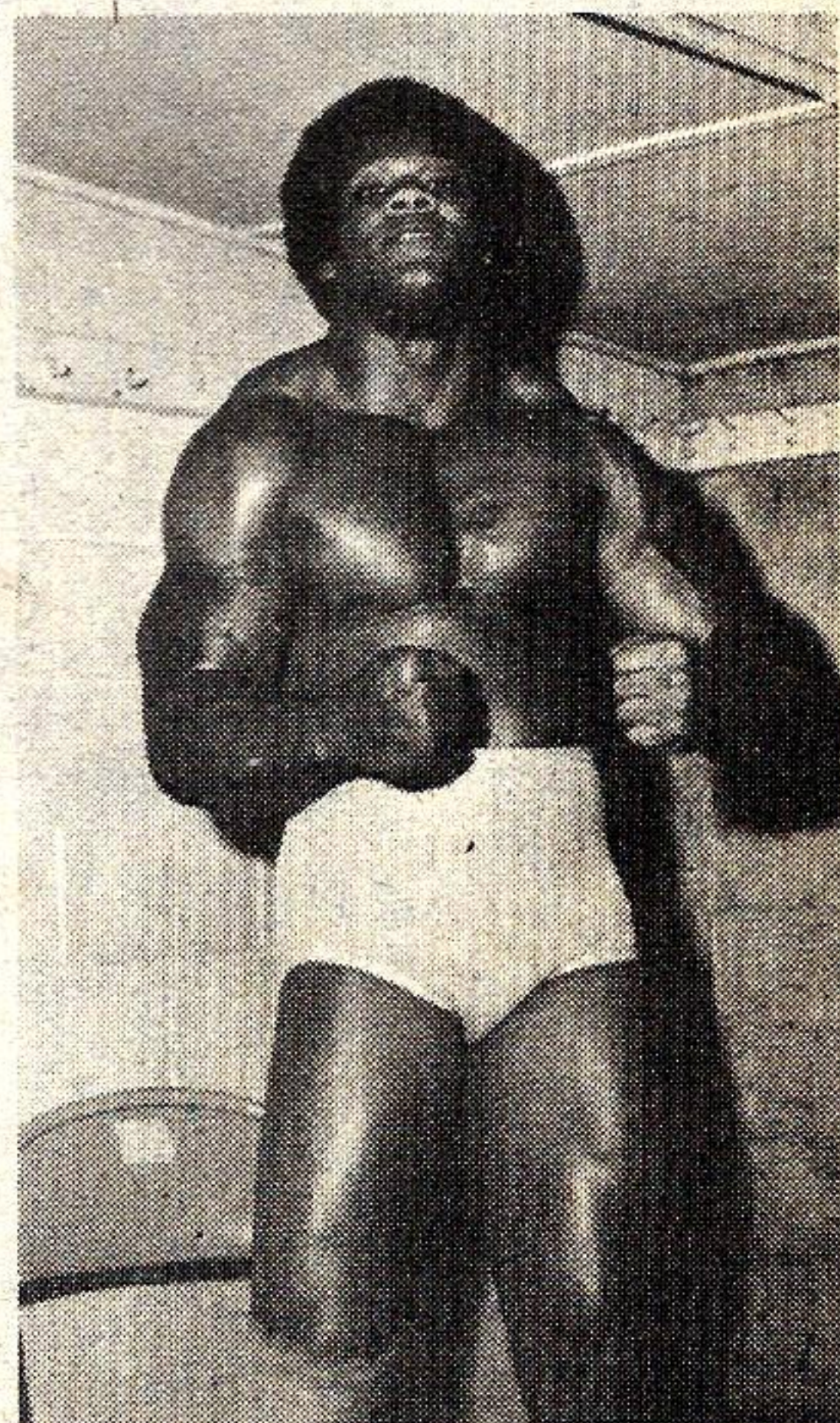
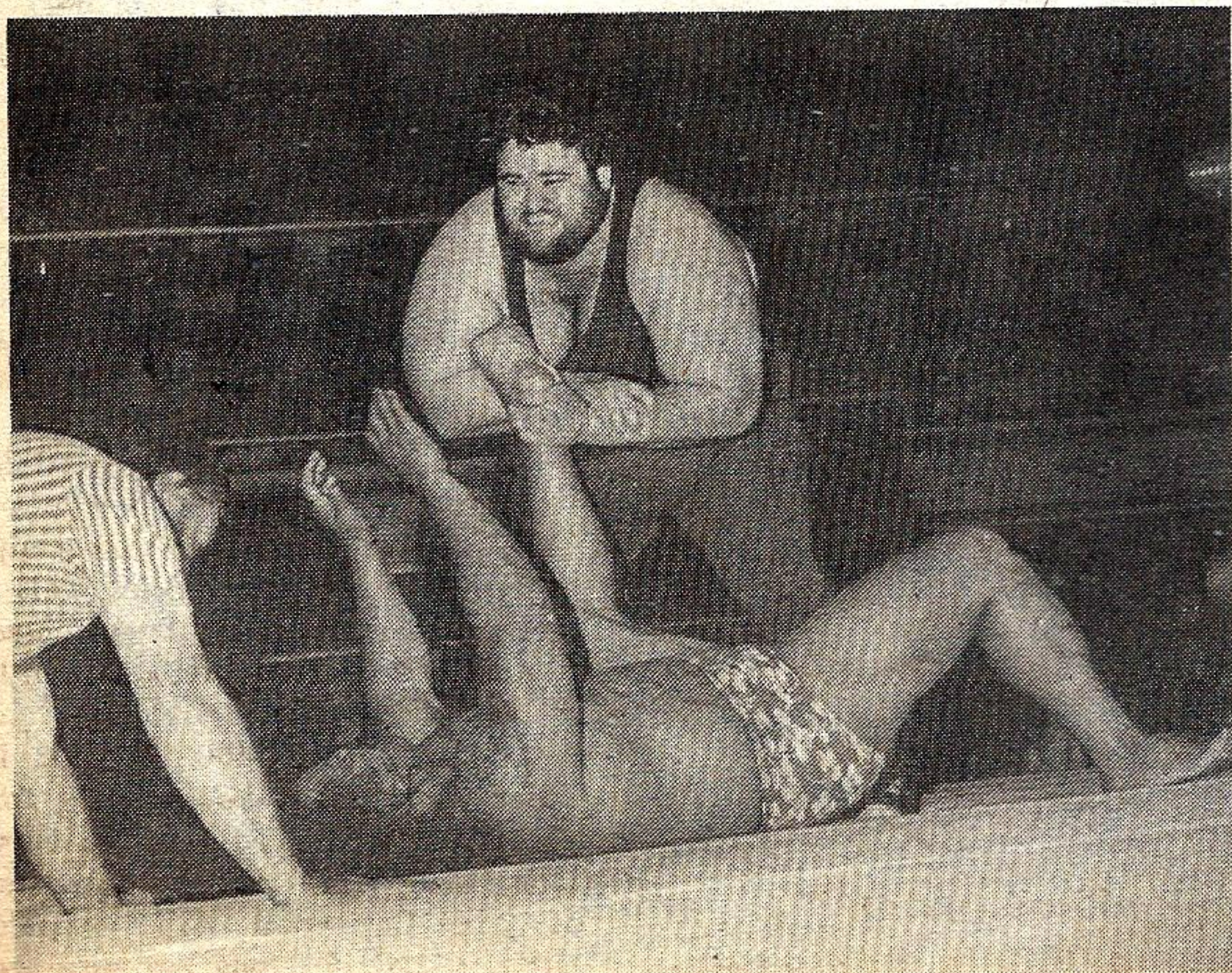
Ed Fury lives up to his name as he gives his opponent Buzz Sawyer a going-over and appears to be enjoying himself.



Silent Mackney is a professional wrestling rookie from Canada, who has overcome the handicap of being a deaf-mute to make the grade in the grappling game.

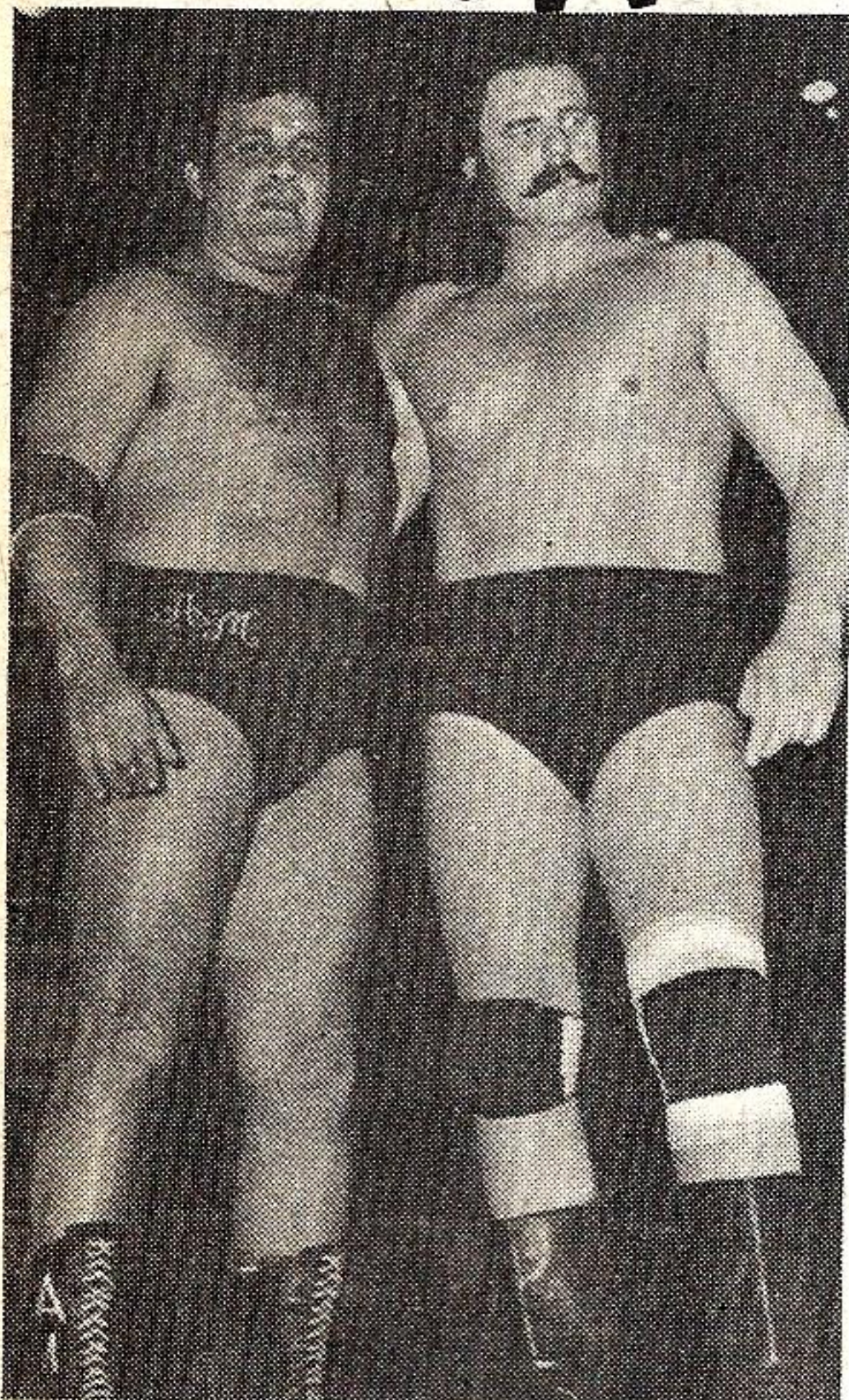


The powerful Jerry Blackwell is making life miserable for his bare-footed rival Tio Tio as he works on his foot.

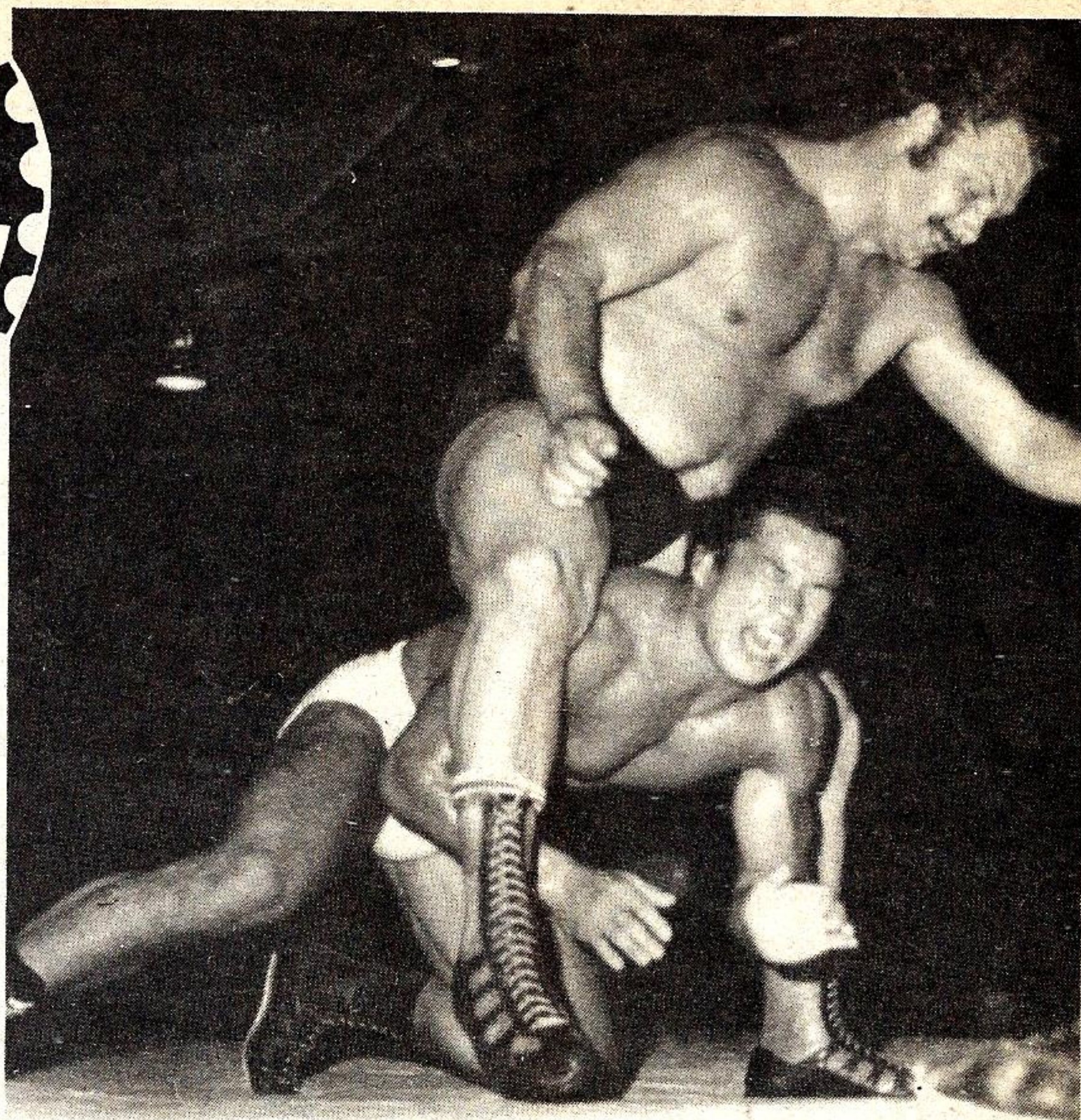


Tony (Atlas) White shows off his powerful physique as he loosens up in the dressing room prior to a match.

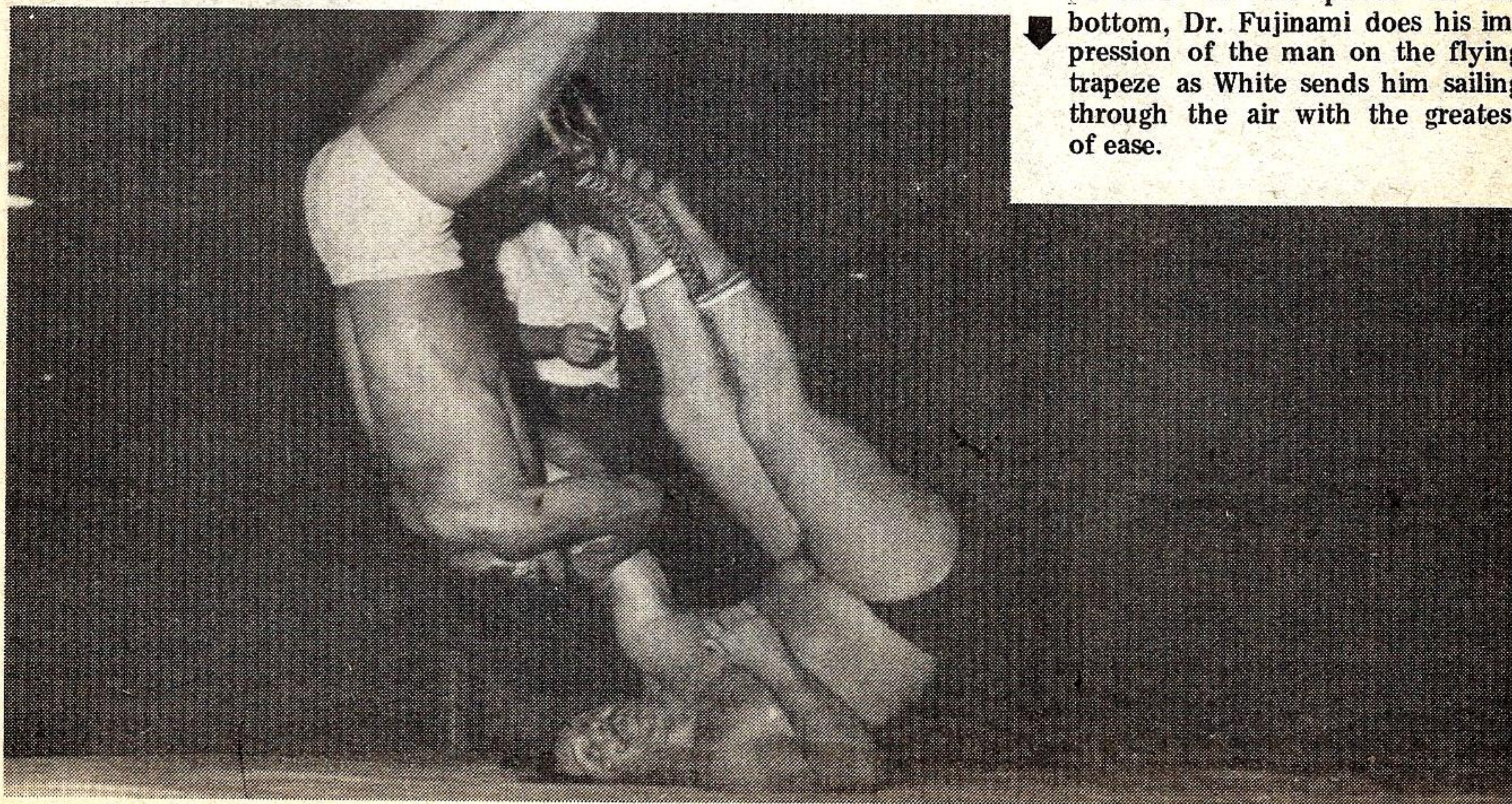
GORDON'S EMIS GRAPPLIN'



Although they may not rank among the most popular performers in the wrestling world, Angelo Mosca (left) and Black Jack Mulligan are an awesome twosome when they team up for a tag-team tussle.



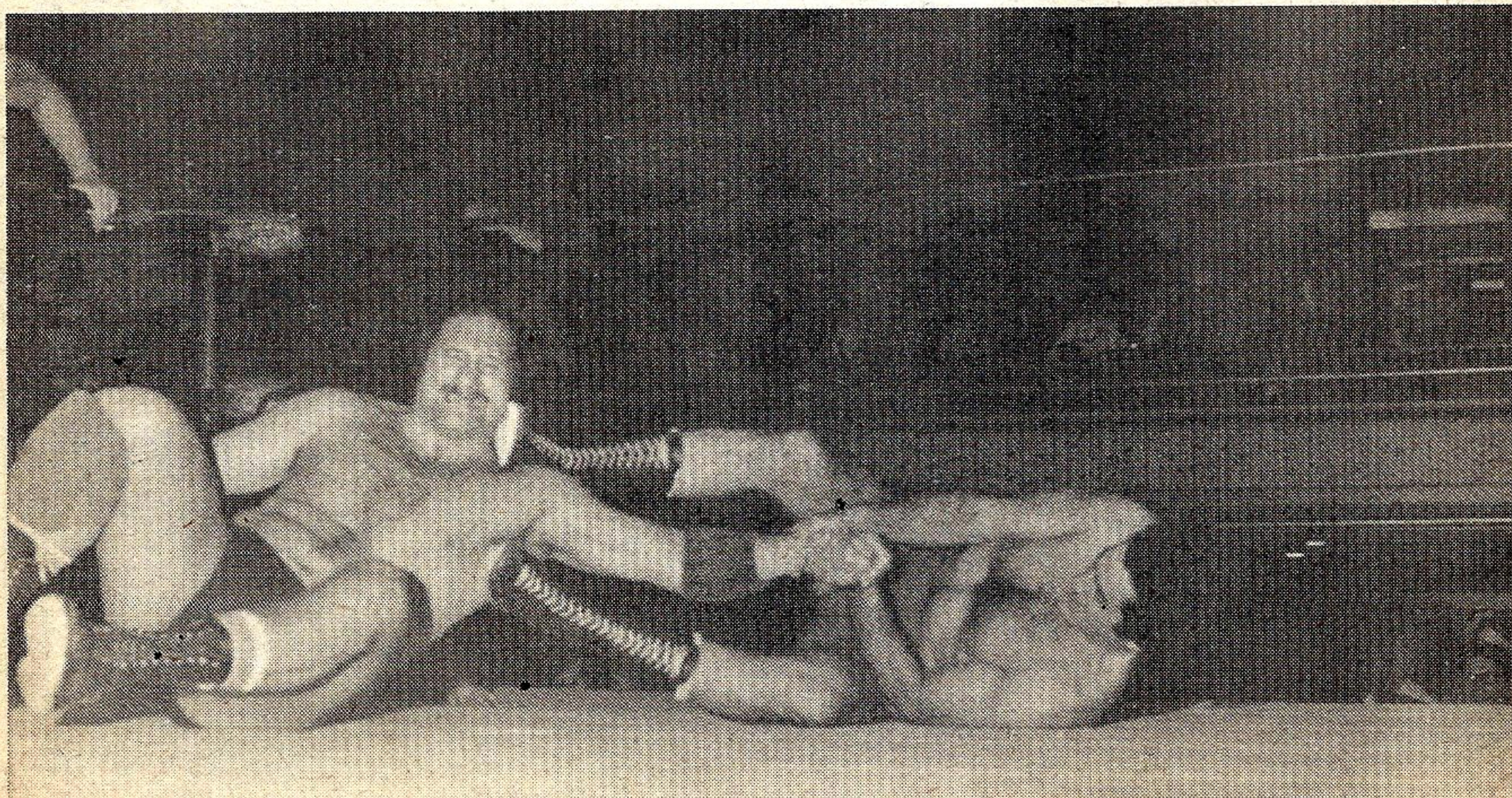
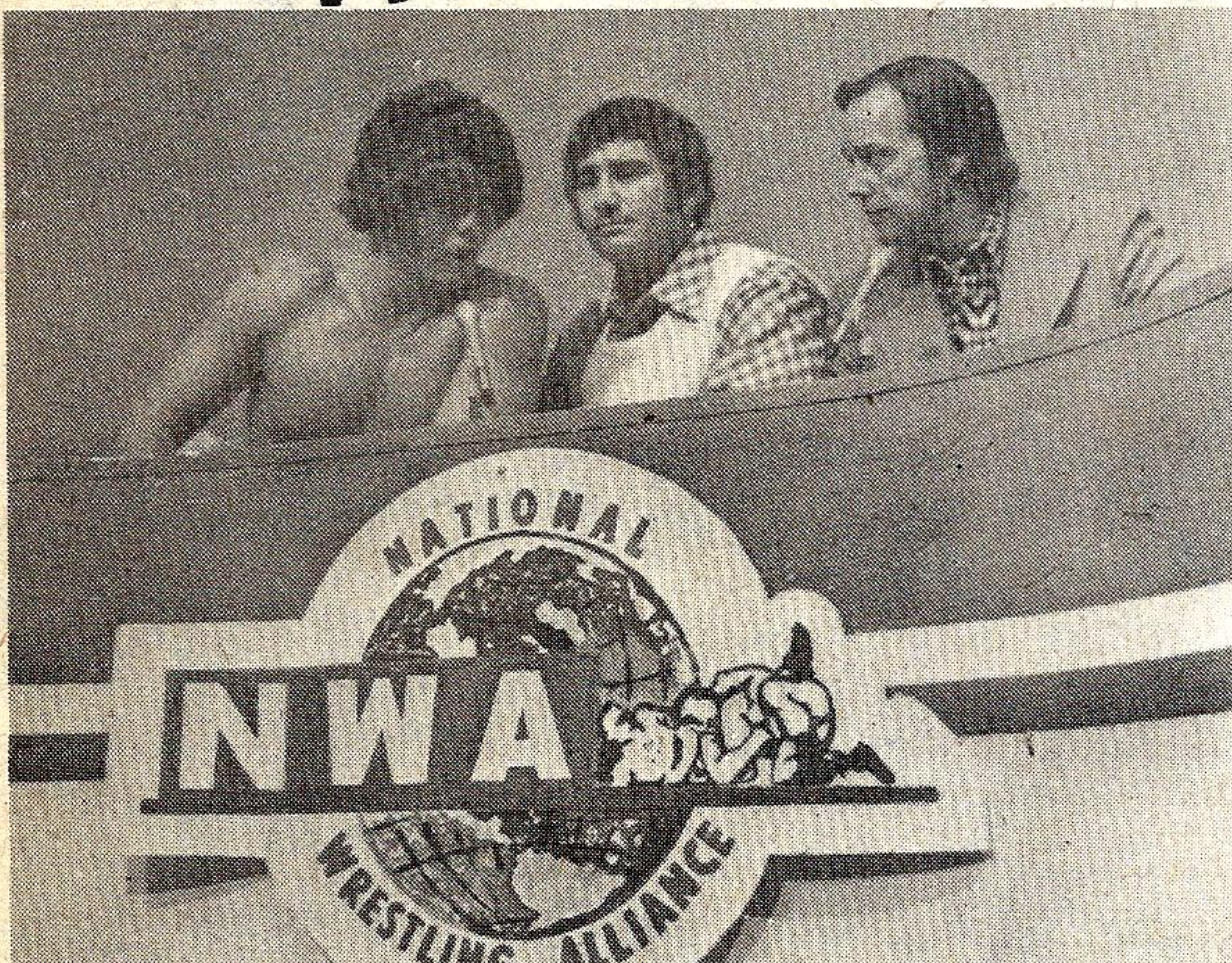
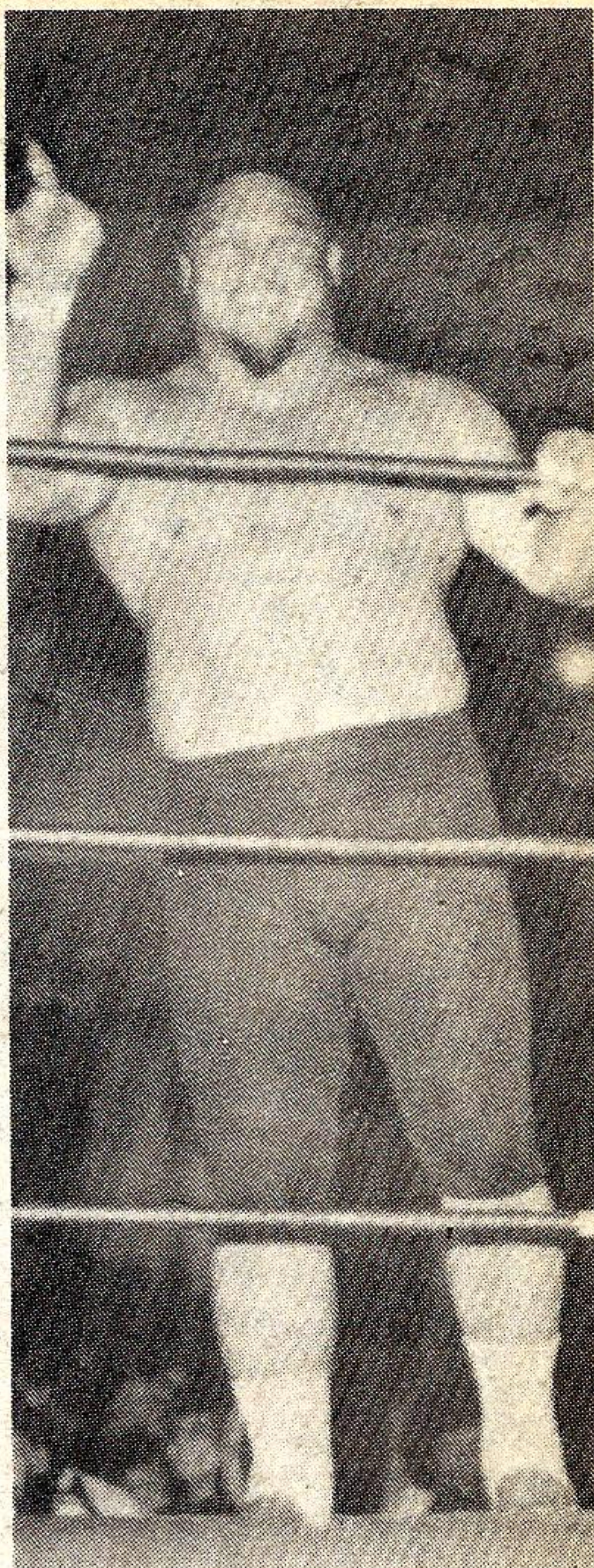
The action was fast and furious in this match between Bill White and Dr. Fujinami. In the photo above a leaping White has just landed flush on the back of Fujinami, who doesn't enjoy the experience. In the photo on the bottom, Dr. Fujinami does his impression of the man on the flying trapeze as White sends him sailing through the air with the greatest of ease.



GORDON'S GRAPPLIN' ITEMS

Taru Tanaka gives an 'I'm No. 1' sign as he smiles happily as he prepares to leave the ring after another win.

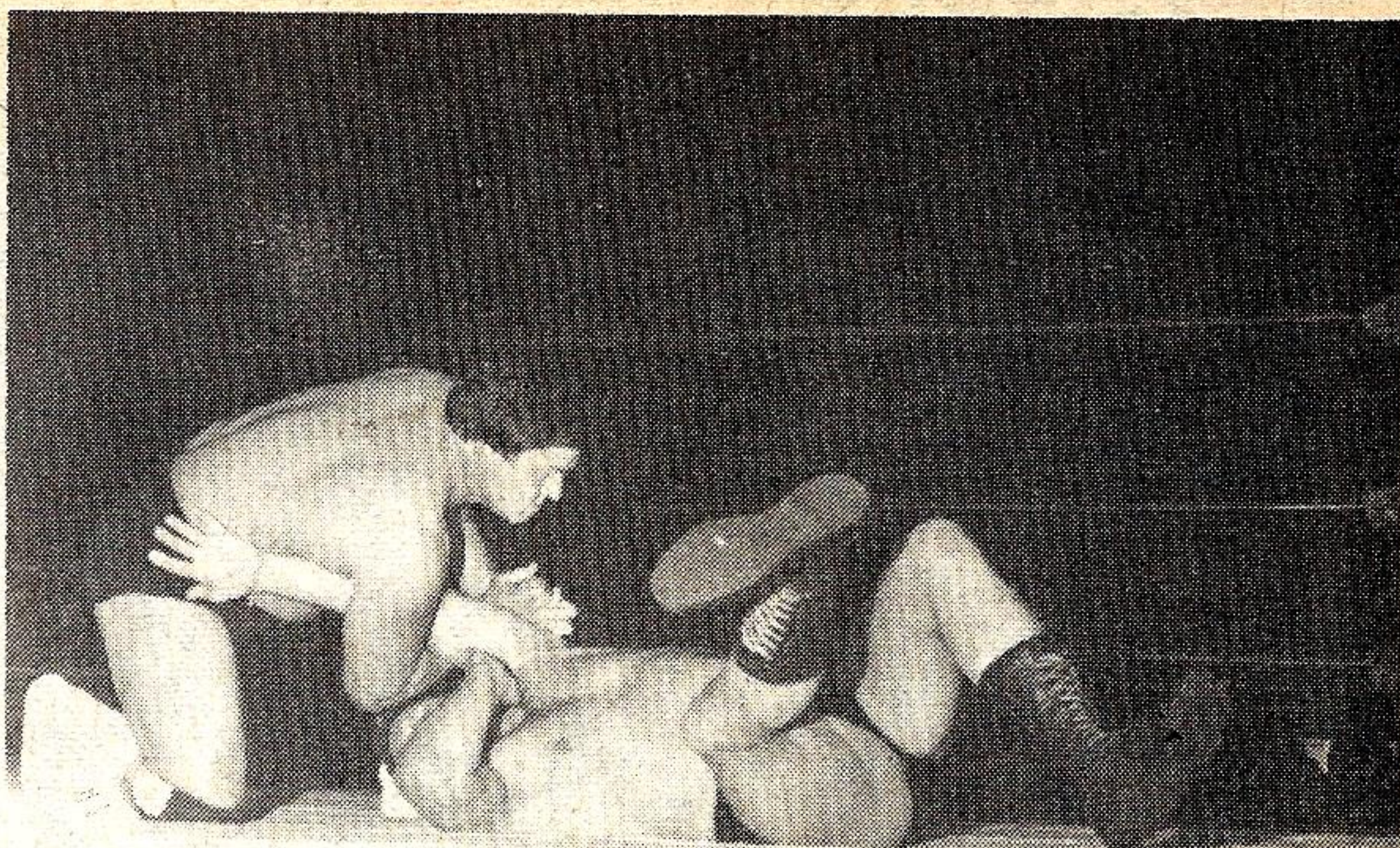
Robert Fuller (left) and Bob Armstrong (center) are guests with Atlanta television announcer Gordon Solie.



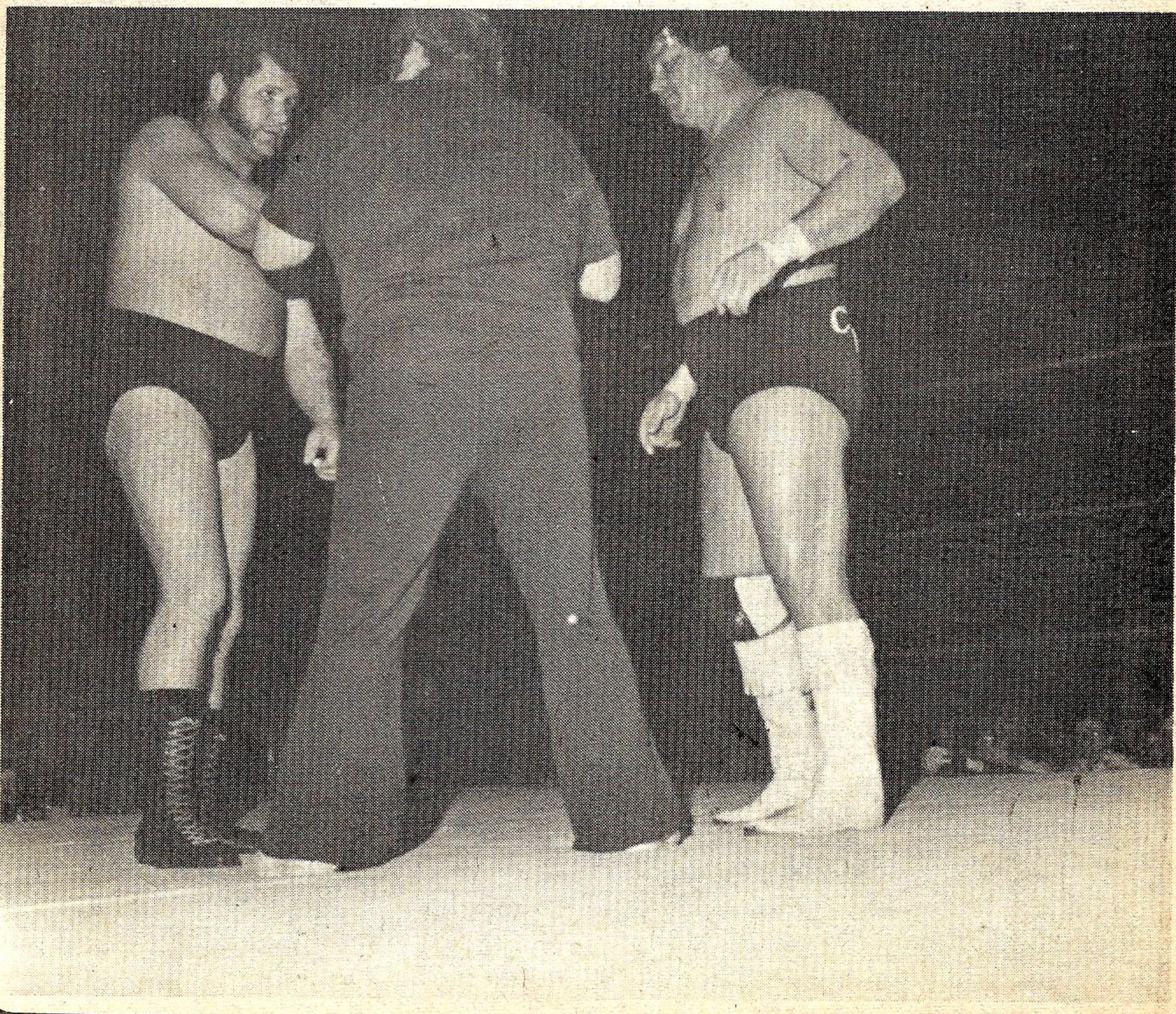
Steve Bolus is doing his best to lengthen Professor Malenko's arm as he works on an arm and shoulder stretch.

GORDON'S EM'S GRAPPLIN'

The action is under way and here Wahoo McDaniel has Harley Race squirming in pain as he works on an armbar. ➡



Harley Race (left) and Wahoo McDaniel get their prefight instructions from the referee. ⬇



GORDON'S WRESTLING GRAPPLIN'



The bearded Jerry Blackwell looks threateningly at Vic Rositani, who is working on his wrist.

One of the top tag-team combinations in the grappling game is the terrific twosome of Dale Roberts (left) and Jerry Brown.

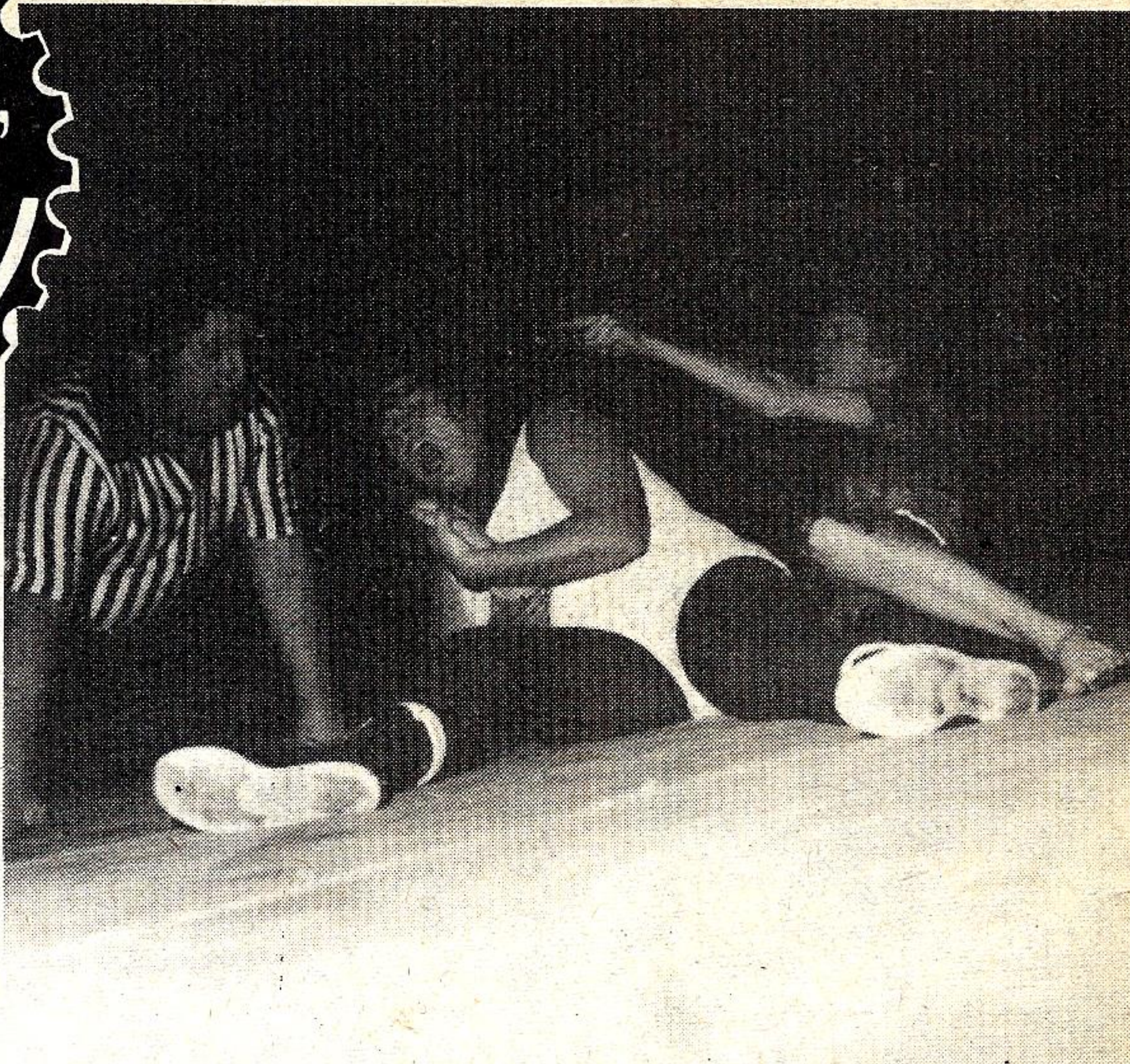


One of the greatest woman wrestlers of all time, the Fabulous Moolah has the holiday spirit and sends season's greetings to wrestling fans everywhere.

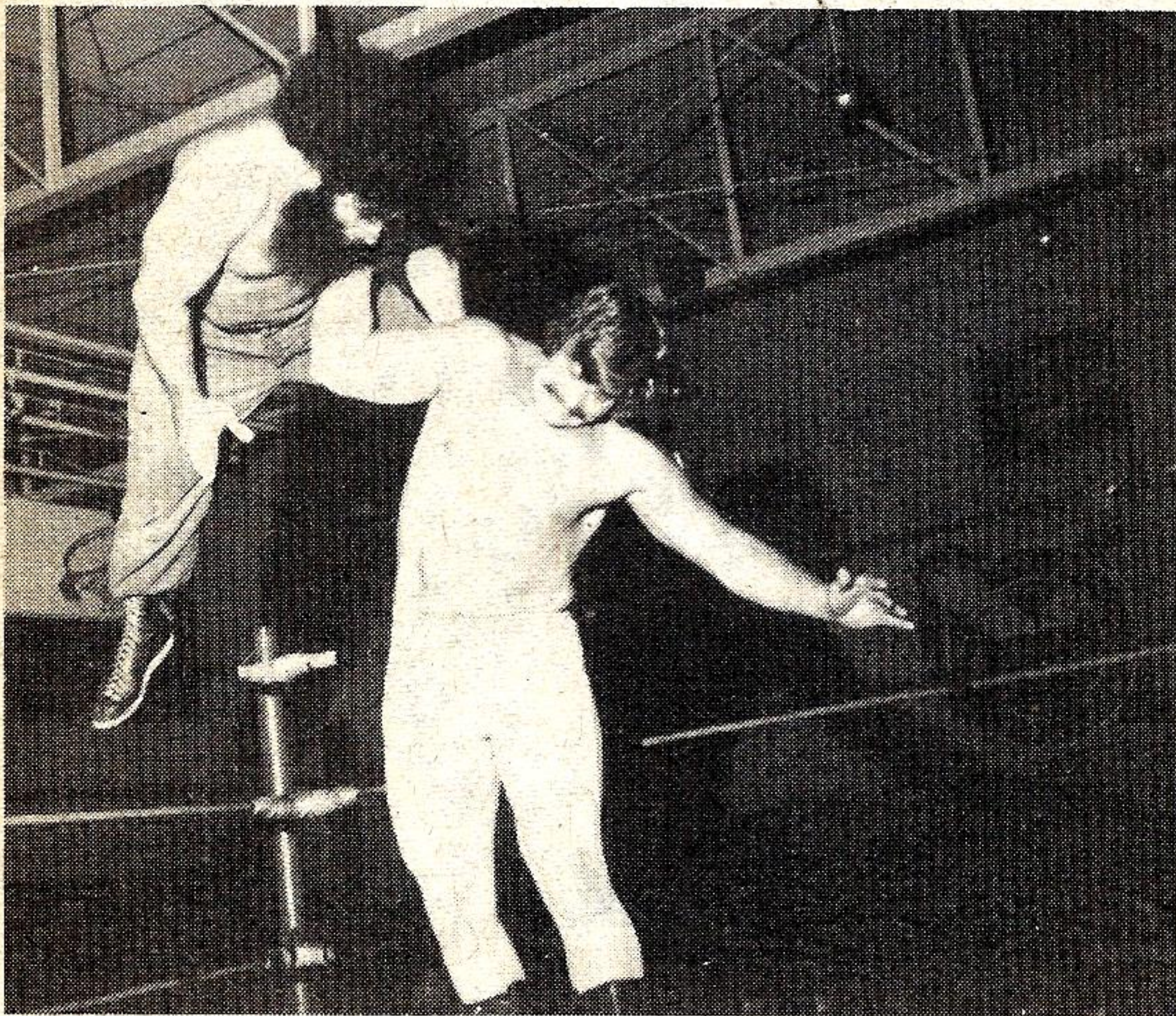
GORDON'S FEMININE GRAPPLIN'



Although his wrestling career keeps him on the road a lot, Ron Starr finds some time to listen to his favorite recording artists when he is home.

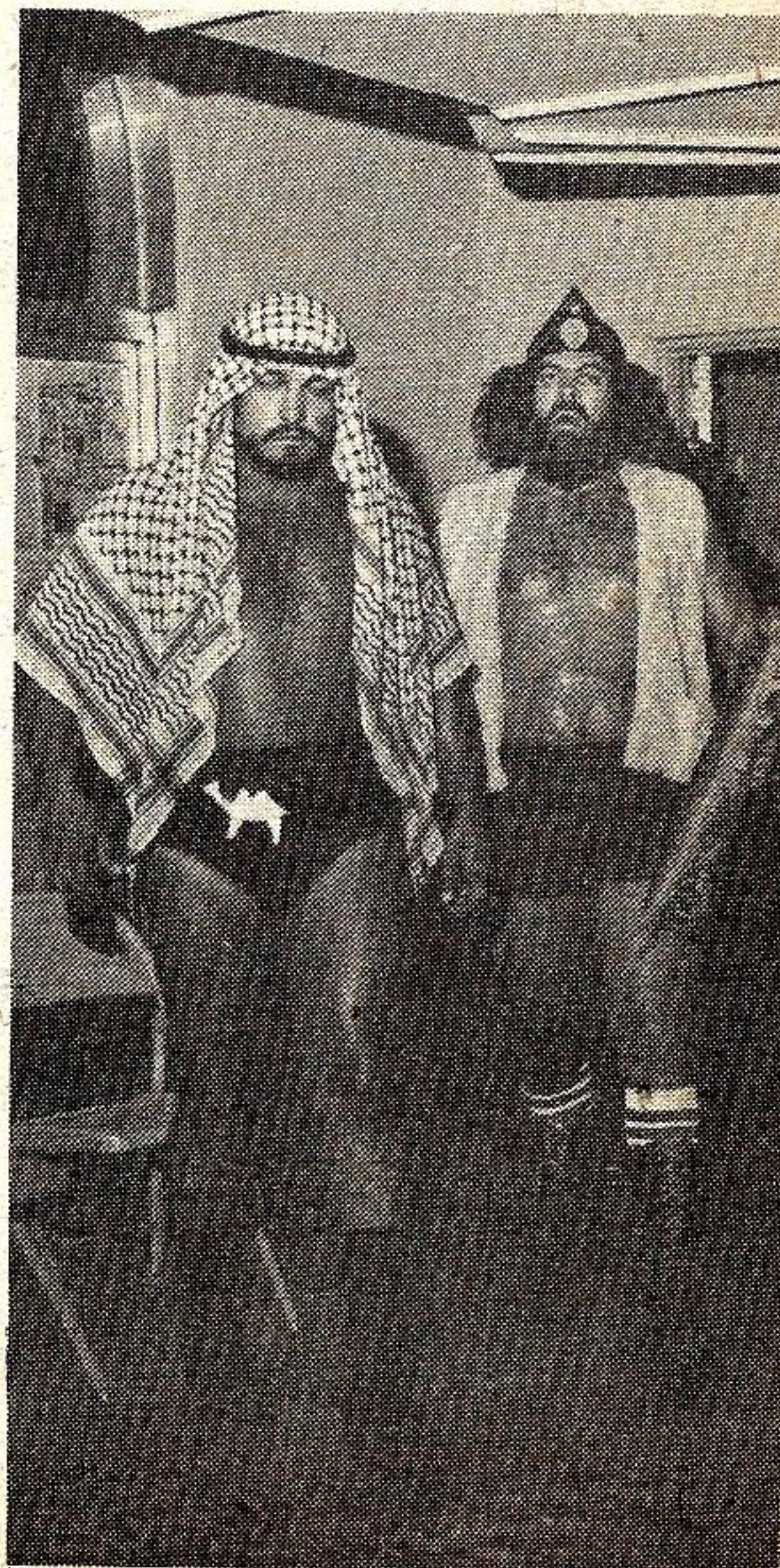


Daisy Mae tries to point out to the referee that her opponent Brenda Starr is biting on the toes of her bare foot.

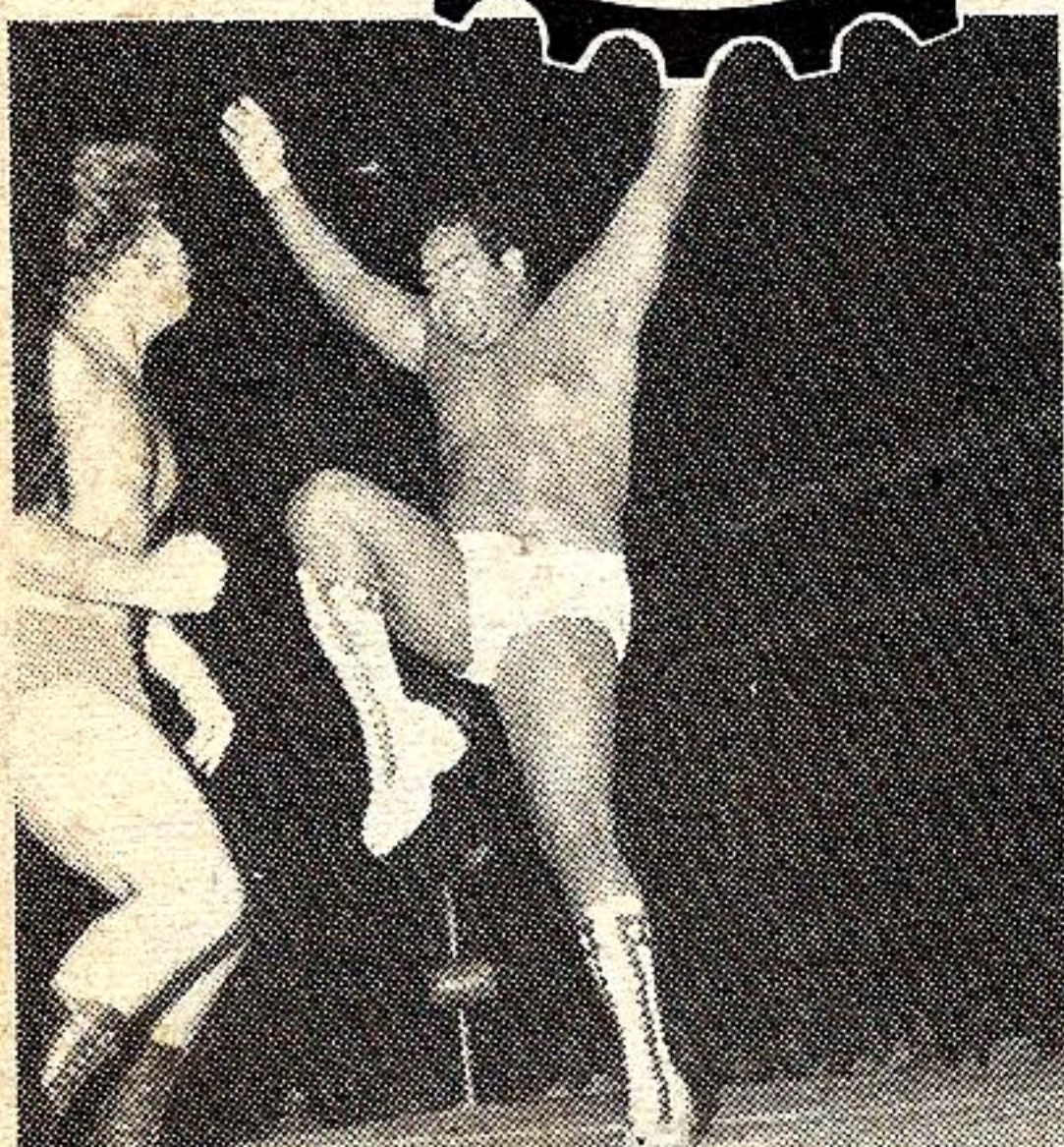


Stonewall Jackson demonstrates his strength as he tosses one of the Cuban Assassins through the air with one hand.

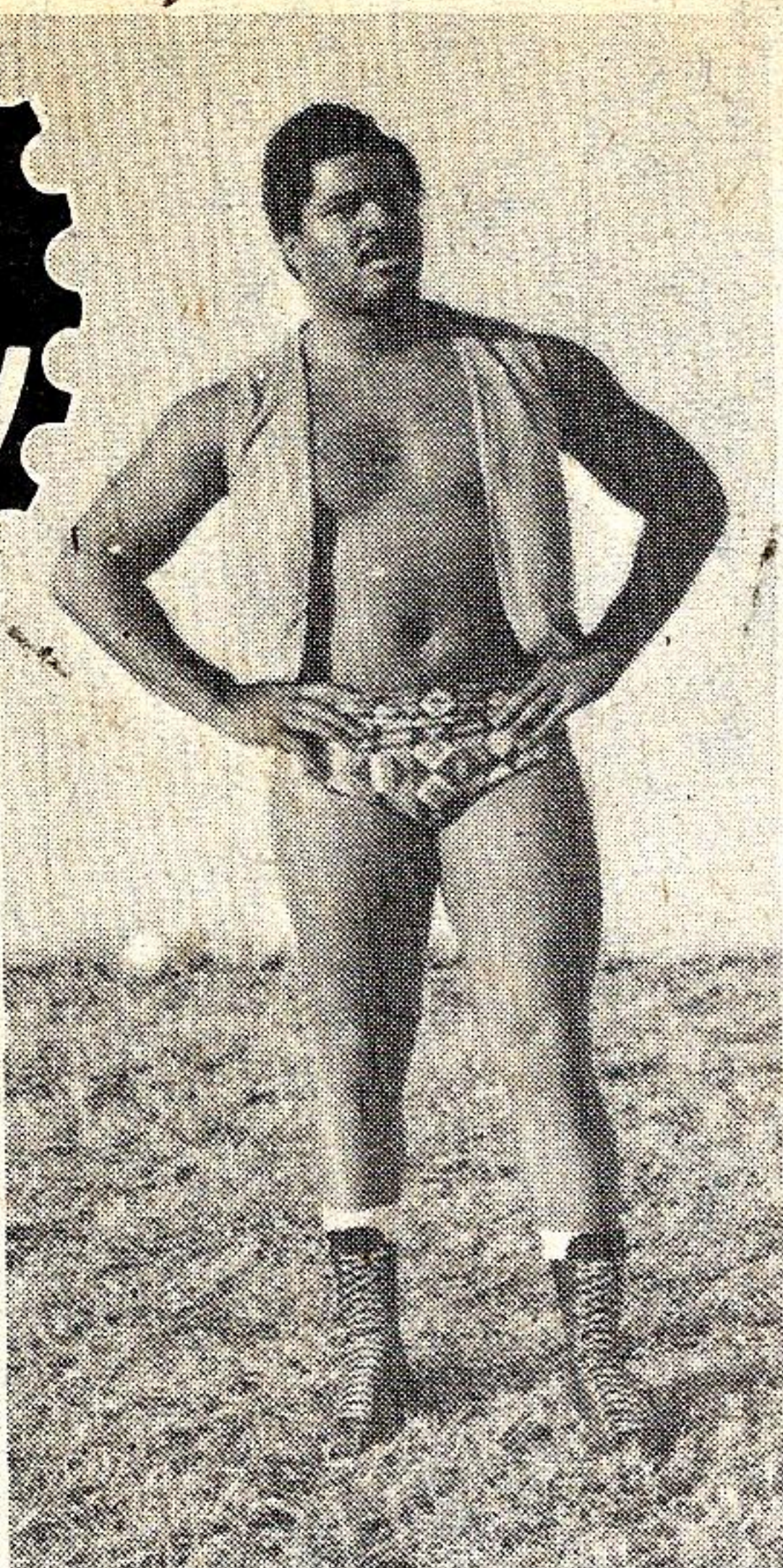
A rough-and-rugged combination both in appearance and wrestling style is the tag-team combination of Abdullah Zaatar and Mike (Hippy) Boyette.



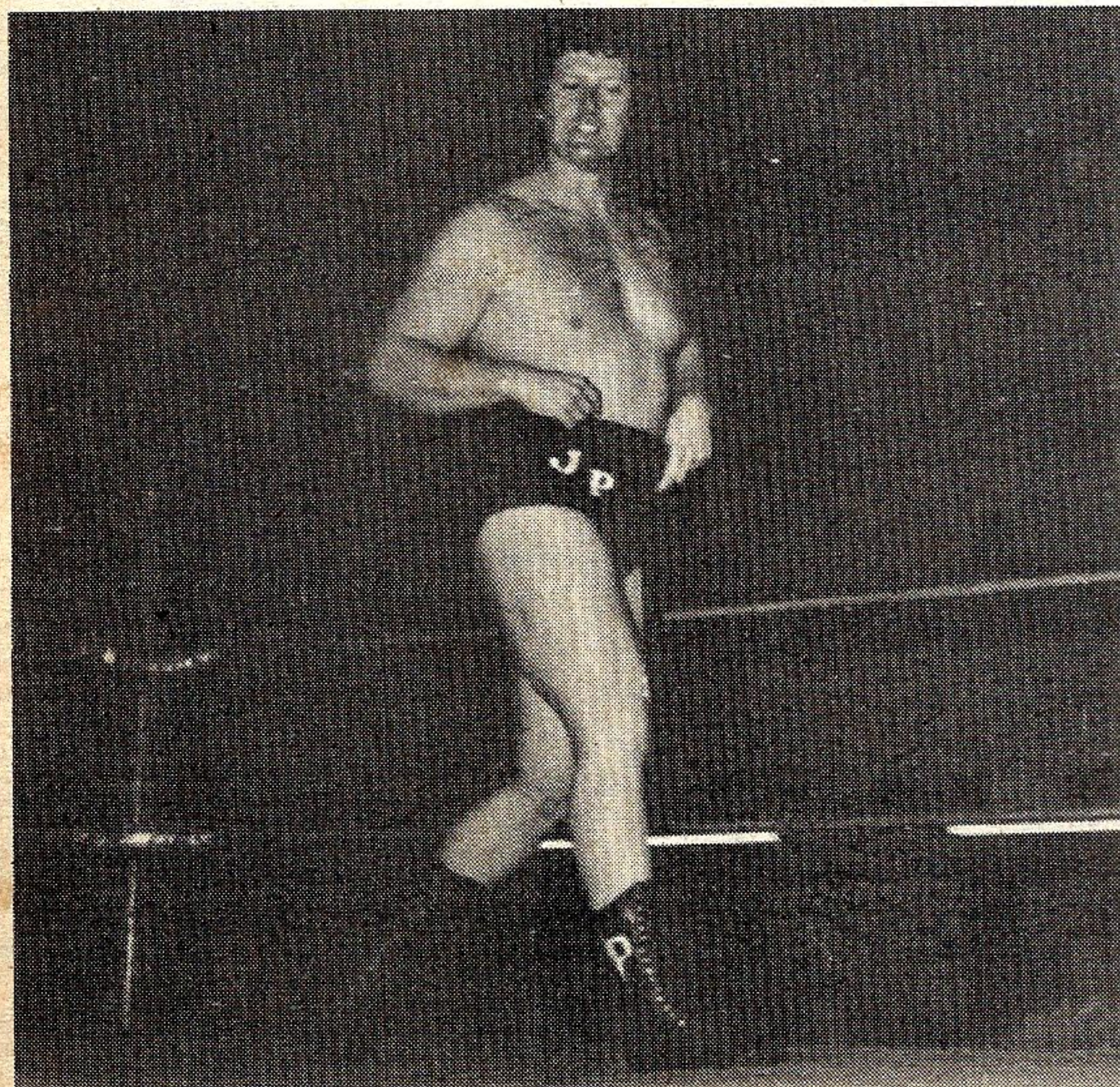
GENE GORDON'S WRESTLING GRAPPLIN'



Don Kernodle is on the receiving end of a vicious knee lift from Don Serrano which isn't a pleasant experience.



Pistol Pez Whatley poses for Wrestling Monthly's ace photographer Gene Gordon.



A popular performer throughout the National Wrestling Alliance is Johnny Powers.

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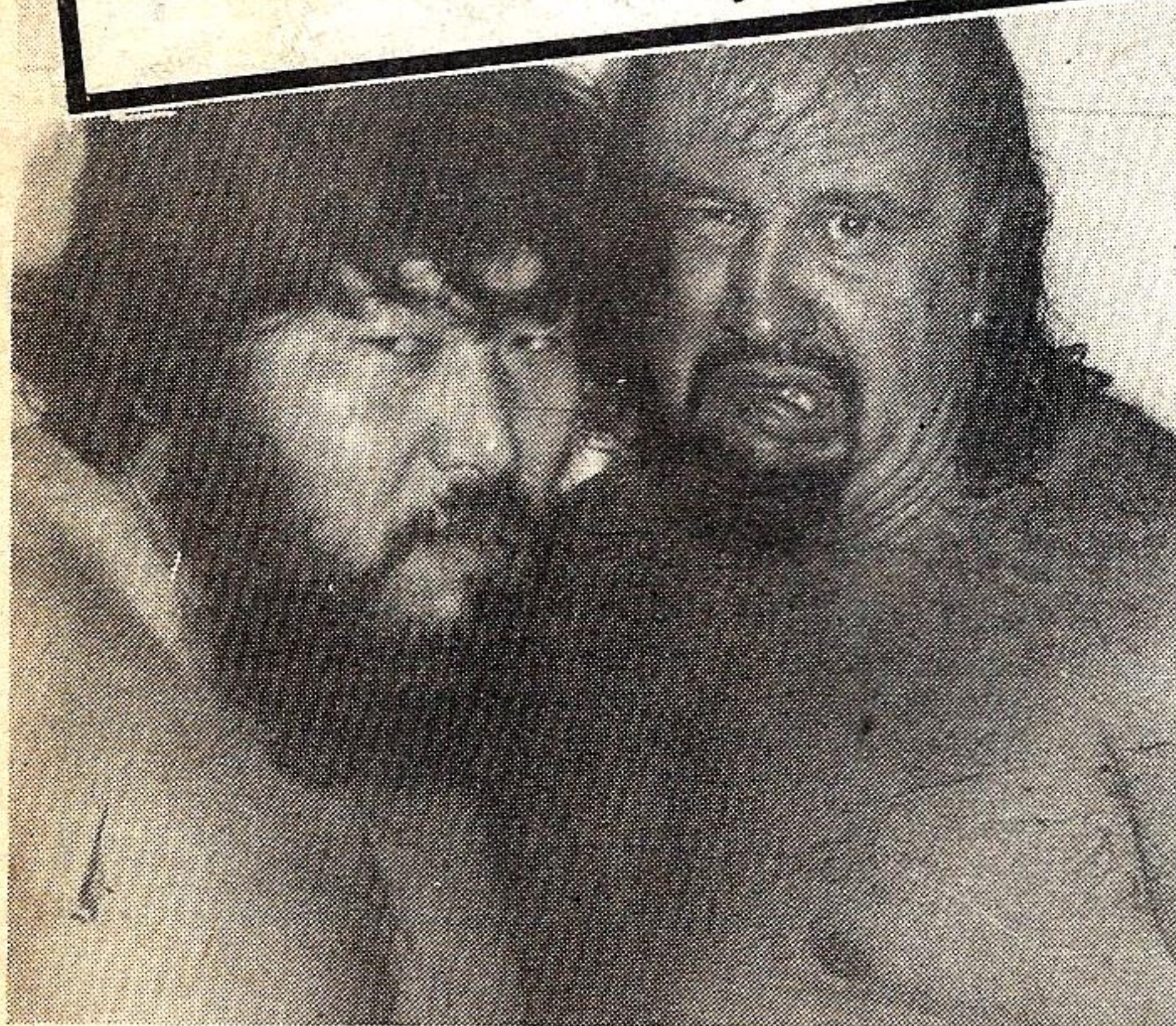
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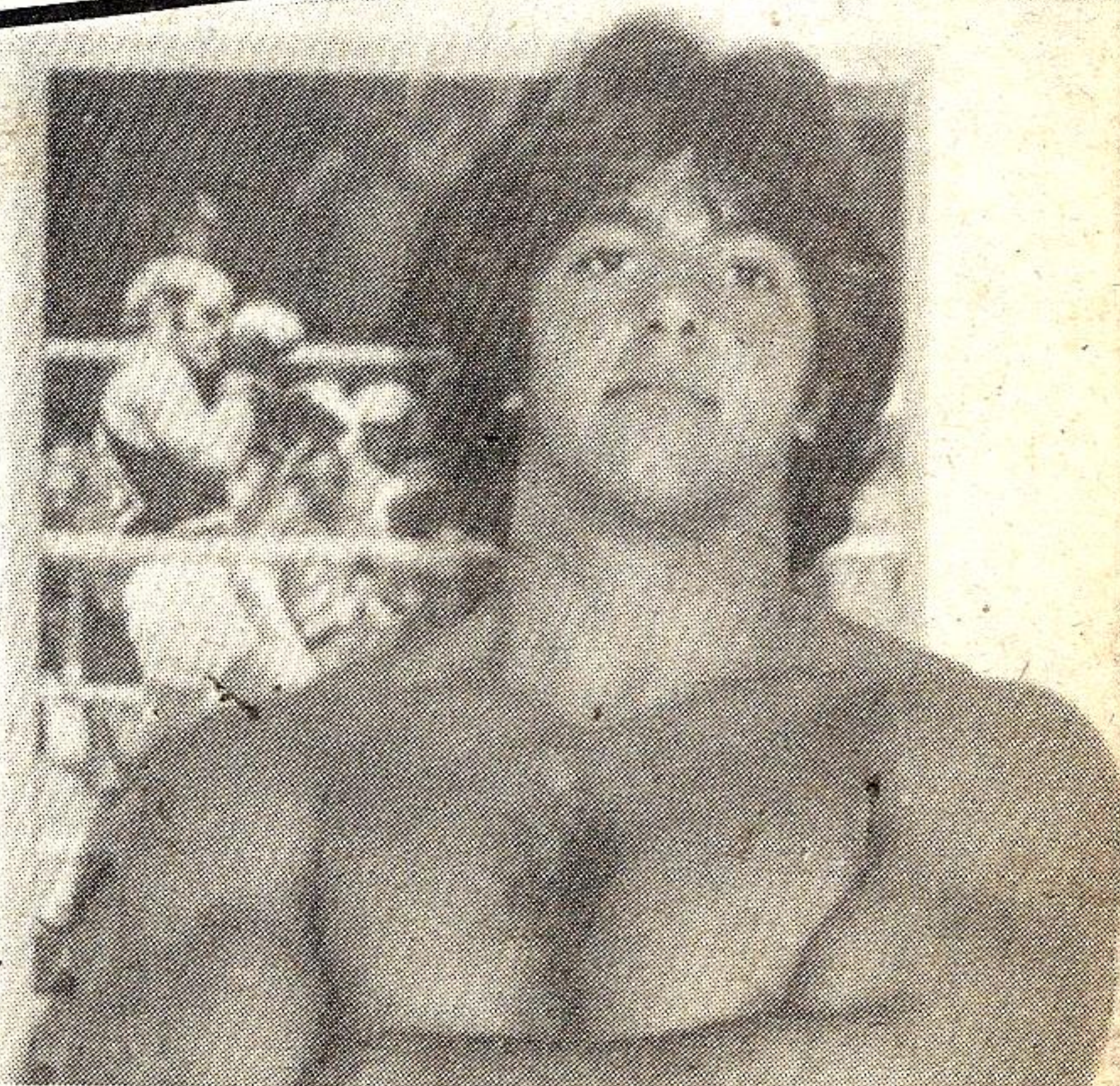
A bloodied Abdullah The Butcher is escorted back to the dressing room by Big Bad John and Onno Boelee after a night of mat mayhem. Abdullah, one of the grappling game's vilest villains, is scheduled to return to the New Zealand mat scene soon.

THE NEW ZEALAND WRESTLING SCENE

by DAVE CAMERON



A couple of mat meanies who have been making their presence felt in New Zealand are Ito Mongol (left) and King Curtis. Curtis is establishing his residence here which is a big plus for New Zealand wrestling.



Canadian import Rick Martell has become the No. 1 gate attraction in New Zealand and recently captured the championship from King Curtis. Rick is a big favorite with female fans of all ages.

Wrestling continues to boom here and much credit goes to young Montreal favorite Rick Martell. Rick has taken the country by storm and is making many female hearts flutter.

His brilliant wrestling has endeared him to the New Zealand fans and he will go down in history as one of our finest performers.

Giant Hawaiian star King Curtis Iaukea has finally decided to build here and settle down as he says this is the finest wrestling territory in the whole world.

The King says all the top men in the wrestling world will now want to come to New Zealand to meet him. Of course, Curtis will still travel around the globe but he will always return home to New Zealand. This is a great boost for New Zealand wrestling.

This season alone we have seen Giant Baba, Rick Martell, Don Muraco, Pat Barrett, Buggy McGraw, Mr. Fuji, The Mongol, Mark Lewin, Ed Wyskowski, Paul Graham, Little Tok-

yo, Cowboy Lang, Kid Hardy, Casey Miller plus our own New Zealand boys, John DaSilva, Bruno Bekkar, Steve Rickard, Merv Fortune, Barry Drage, Red Woolf, Robert Bruce, Del Adams, Johnny Garcia, Samoan Joe, Siva Afi Taogoga, Barry Keene, Ale Tuhinga. Lu Leota, Mita Mohi and Al Hobman.

Recent action in New Zealand has seen Rick Martell win the championship belt from King Curtis.

Steve Rickard recently met the Mongol in a grudge bout. Curtis and Martell were chained together at ringside to keep them from interfering in the bout. They walked around the ring in chains. Many times Curtis tried to enter the ring, but each time young Rick managed to pull him back off the ring apron.

The main match was a rugged affair with Rickard getting the better of the bout, much to the disgust of Curtis who was urging the Mongol on from behind the ropes.

But in the fifth round, the two

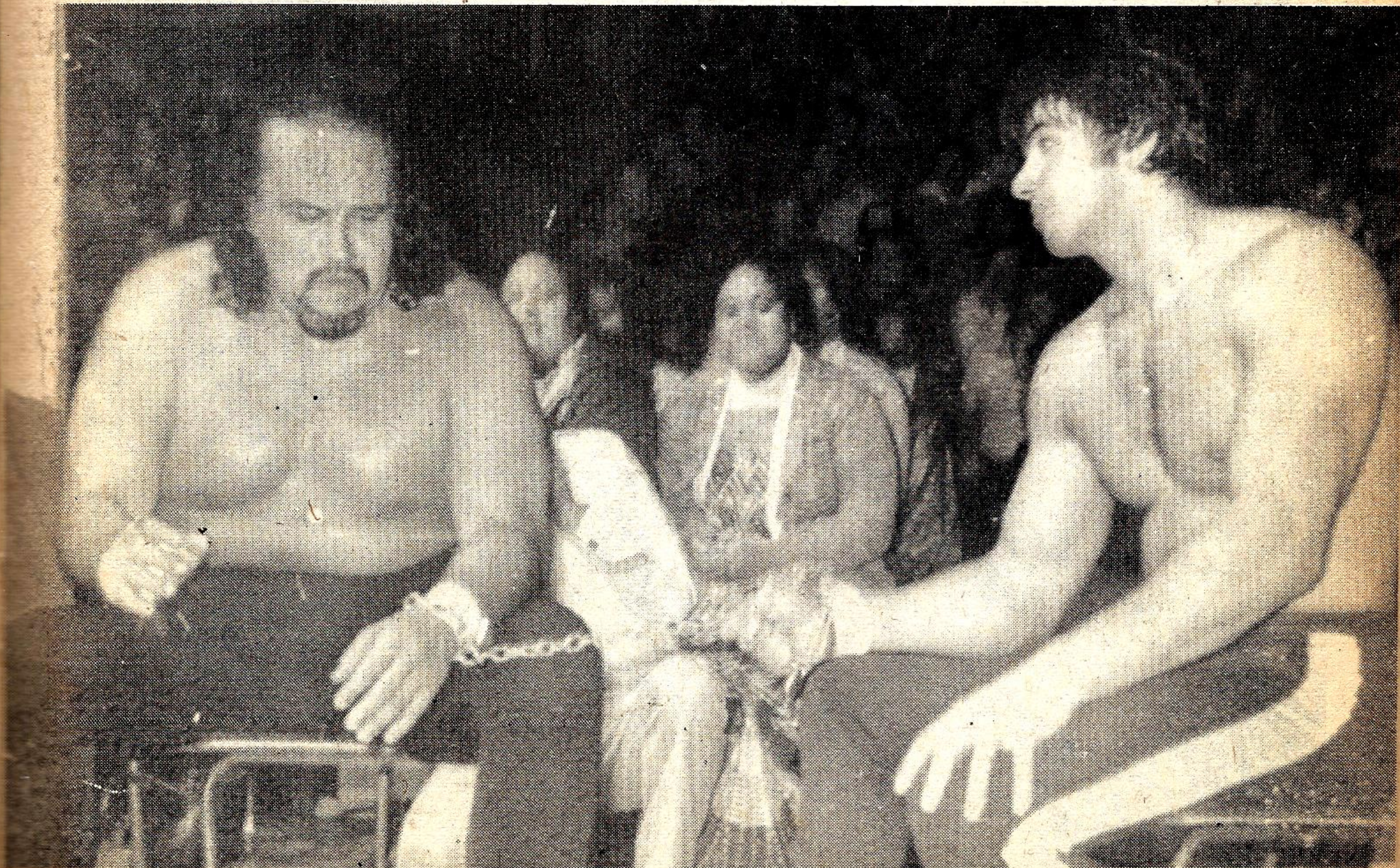
wrestlers became entangled on a cornerpost while Curtis was trying to entice the Mongol towards him. Rickard then threw the Mongol at Curtis, the collision sent the Mongol to the mat and within seconds Rickard was on him for the pin.

As well as being a big sensation here, Ricky Martell is also in big demand in Australia. So much so in fact that on Friday nights he boards an airplane for Sydney, Australia, and is back in New Zealand Monday mornings ready for his local engagements.

Over the years we have seen several Canadian matmen here who have been outstanding athletes. John Katan, George Walker and our greatest ever visitor Earl McCready spring quickly to mind, but we have had many, many more.

However, young Martell possesses more speed and agility than any previous visitors here.

Rick is the envy of all here, and is adored by teenage girls, young ladies and old grandmothers alike.



To keep them from interfering in the match between The Mongol and Steve Rickard, King Curtis (left) and Rick Martell were chained together at ringside. Even with the chain, Martell keeps a wary eye on Curtis.



John DaSilva is one of the top native grapplers exhibiting his wrestling wares in New Zealand.

Mark Lewin (left) and Rick Martell are two of the top performers in New Zealand mat circles.



A popular tag-team combination in New Zealand is the duo of Samoan Joe and Siva Afi Taogaga.

HALL OF FAME: A SHRINE TO GRAPPLING GREATS

by JESS HERNANDEZ



Former mat star turned movie star, Mike Mazurki (centre) poses for a picture with the late George Parnassus, who was best known as a boxing promoter, and one of the greatest women wrestlers of all time, Mildred Burke.

Glorification and salute to wrestling's mightiest gladiators will officially begin with the induction of all-time matmen into the prestigious Hall of Fame Shrine Foundation at the famed Hollywood Legion Stadium. Boxing and wrestling's 'Madison Square Garden of the West' in the 1920s and 1930s will also be the future home of the International Shrine for the indefatigable ringmen who ushered in the sport's golden era.

Roll call and induction into the Wrestling Hall of Fame will include mat greats of the 1930s, '40s and '50s — the epoch that produced Jimmy Londos, Lou Thesz, Dave Levin, Vincent Lopez and Strangler Lewis.

Living legends selected to the mat foundation in recent months are Barone Michele Leone, Danny McShain, Bronko Nagurski, Lou Thesz, Vincent Lopez, Ed Don George and the late Antonino Rocca.

In future months, the Hall of Fame Shrine will bestow honors on 'Jumping' Joe Savoldi, the former Notre Dame gridiron immortal who beat Jim Londos in 1933 to capture the world's championship. Savoldi tangled with famed Vincent Lopez at the Olympic Auditorium in 1936 and during his illustrious career met Strangler Lewis, Mike Mazurki, Man Mountain Dean, Nick Lutze, Sandor Szabo, Kiman Kudo and Gus Sonnenberg.

Ticketed for the Hall of Fame sweepstakes is Dangerous Danny McShain the famed 'walking hospital' of matdom who won the world's light-heavyweight and heavyweight crowns. McShain was a popular figure at the Hollywood Legion in the '30s where he launched his career. As a light-heavyweight stalwart, Danny took on Yukon Jake, Lord Landsdown, Wild Red Berry and Billy Varga.

Barone Michele Leone, the bona-

fide nobleman from Abruzzi, Italy, who captivated mat crowds with his whirlwind style of grappling in the '50s, is Hall of Fame bound. Leone's finest moment in matdom came in 1952 when he met Lou Thesz for the world's title in Gilmore Stadium before a whopping throng of 28,000! Leone's pet hobby while distributing mayhem and torture inside the arena at the Olympic Auditorium was showering the fans with lollipops to win their affection and applause. However, sometimes Leone's generous hi-jinks backfired and the rambunctious fans responded by throwing bottles and beer cans. Despite his reputation as one of matdom's most "hated villains" Leone packed West Coast

arenas to capacity and will be a welcome addition to the Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame Foundation in recent years has bestowed honors on Jimmy Londos, Billy Varga, Dave Leone, Ed Don George, Al Baffert, Tiger Joe Marsh, Mike Mazurki, Mildred Burke, Strangler Lewis, Joe Bonomo, Lou Thesz and Antonino Rocca.

Impresario and Hall of Fame director Marshall Wright indicated that in coming months the International Wrestling and Boxing Shrine located in the famed Hollywood Legion Stadium will be open to the public as a tourist attraction.

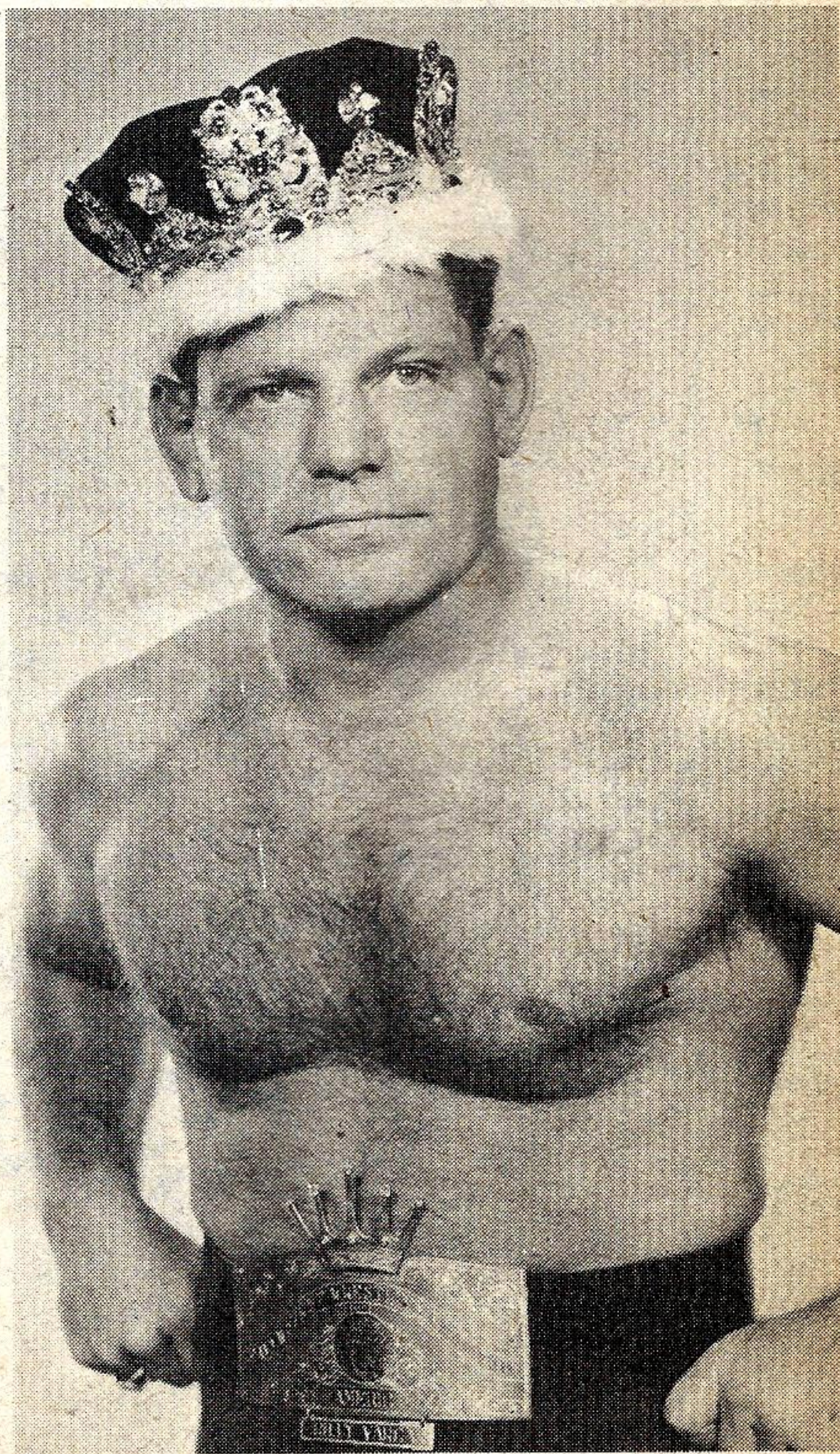
"Boxing and wrestling have pro-

duced numerous all-time champions in the past and their fame is widespread. The years of their greatest achievements came in the '30s and '40s and many of today's generation have never heard of them. What better way to honor these great athletes than to have them in a Hall of Fame Foundation. Oil portraits of past champions, memorabilia and championship belts will be part of the International Shrine Museum," said Wright.

The Hall of Fame shrine culminates many years of work and organization in officially launching the prestigious edifice. Hail the crowning of the monarchs who made the sport of wrestling, King of Them All!!



One of the mat marvels of the 1930s and a wrestling Hall of Famer is Dave Levin, who reigned as champion in 1936.



Count Billy Varga also made the transition from the mat world to the movies with great success, and the former American heavyweight wrestling champion has earned his berth in the Hall of Fame.

Grappling Glamor Girl



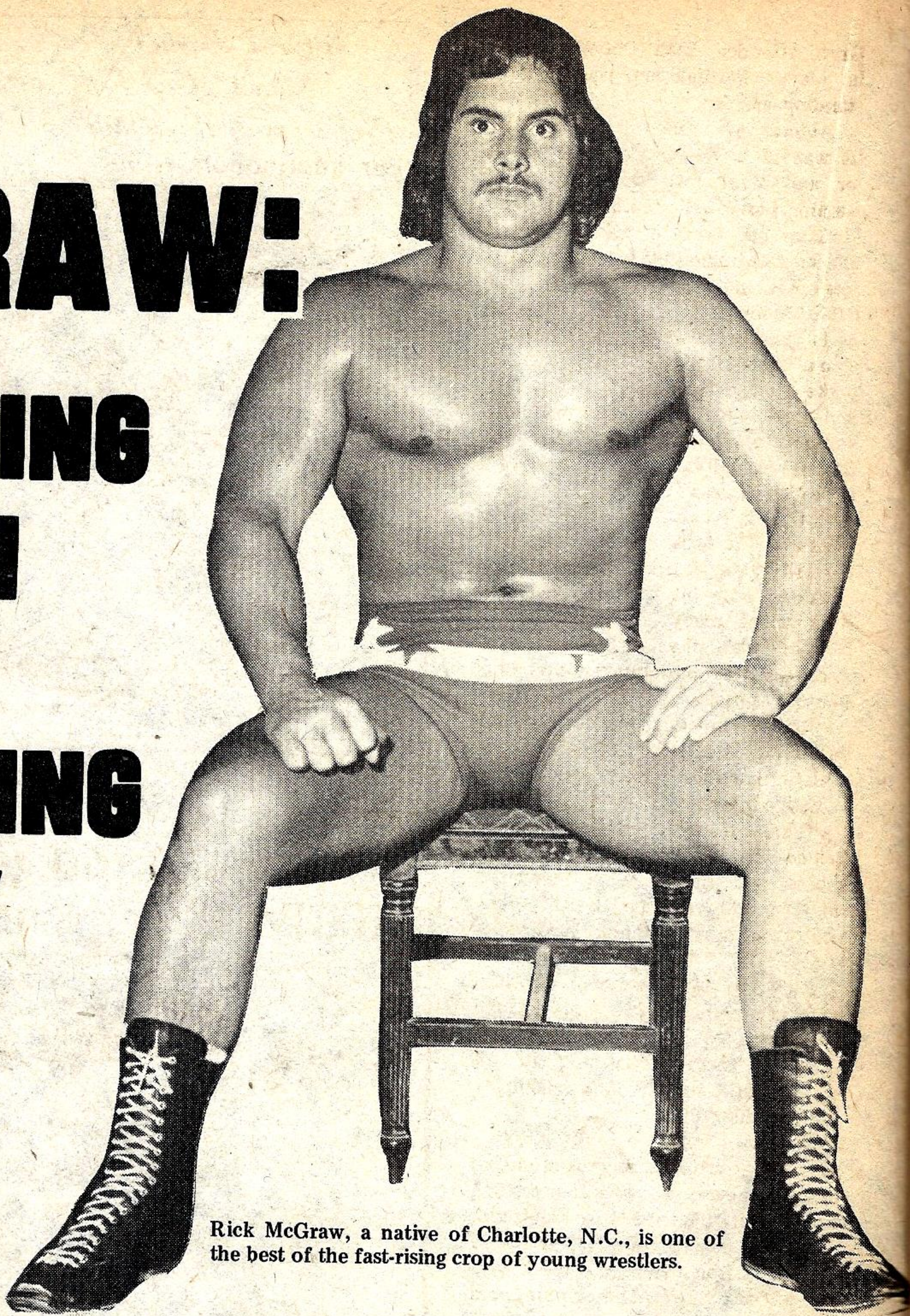


**TAMMY
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RICK McGRAW:

A SOARING STAR IN THE GRAPPLING GALAXY

by GENE GORDON



Rick McGraw, a native of Charlotte, N.C., is one of the best of the fast-rising crop of young wrestlers.

Many wrestling fans have probably never heard the name Rick McGraw, but to wrestling fans in the Southern United States this young mat ace is their pride and joy.

Young McGraw has only been a professional wrestler for two years, but to watch him in action against some of the seasoned veterans one would think he's been wrestling much longer. He's just a natural-born grappler. It's like the old adage says, "Athletes are born to greatness,

not made."

Weighing 230 pounds and standing 5-foot-9, the Charlotte, N.C., native has been making rapid headway since he started his professional wrestling career in the summer of 1975.

This writer has seen many young wrestlers who possess championship material, but I will go out on a limb — along with many other wrestling buffs — in predicting this capable young mat star will go a long way in

his chosen profession.

A factor contributing to Rick McGraw's mat success was his early interest in sports. Before turning to pro wrestling, Rick was an All-County linebacker and running back at North Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, N.C. McGraw, although he only weighed 185 pounds then, wrestled in high school as well. In 1973, Rick was chosen as his school's athlete of the year.

After finishing high school, Mc-

Graw attended Elon College where he played football and was an outstanding wrestler.

About this time, Rick decided he wanted to be a professional wrestler and went into an eight-month training period. His teachers saw that McGraw had loads of natural ability and he was trained by several top professionals including Bill Watts and Pat O'Connor.

It usually takes a young professional from three to four years to make a name for himself in this rugged sport where there is a lot of stiff competition, but this North Carolinian has established himself as a pro in two short years.

"It wasn't easy," said the likable McGraw. "It took a lot of patience and grit to stay at this business."

Along with his wrestling training, Rick spent many hours developing his muscular physique doing exercises such as push-ups, sit-ups and lifting weights.

Boating, bowling, ice hockey and swimming are some of the other athletic activities in which Rick takes an active interest.

"The skill I acquired as an amateur helped lay the foundation for my professional career, but I learned a lot from Bill Watts and Pat O'Connor and I owe a lot to them," stated McGraw.

Rick left his hometown of Charlotte in August, 1975, as he decided he wanted to gain some experience elsewhere before returning to his native Southern U.S. and making a name for himself.

McGraw went to Tampa, Fla., where he began wrestling for promoter Eddie Graham. As well as wrestling against the likes of Hiro Matsudo, Rick also got to learn the tricks of the trade from the likes of Jack Brisco, a former world champion, and Bob Roop, who competed in the 1968 Olympic Games.

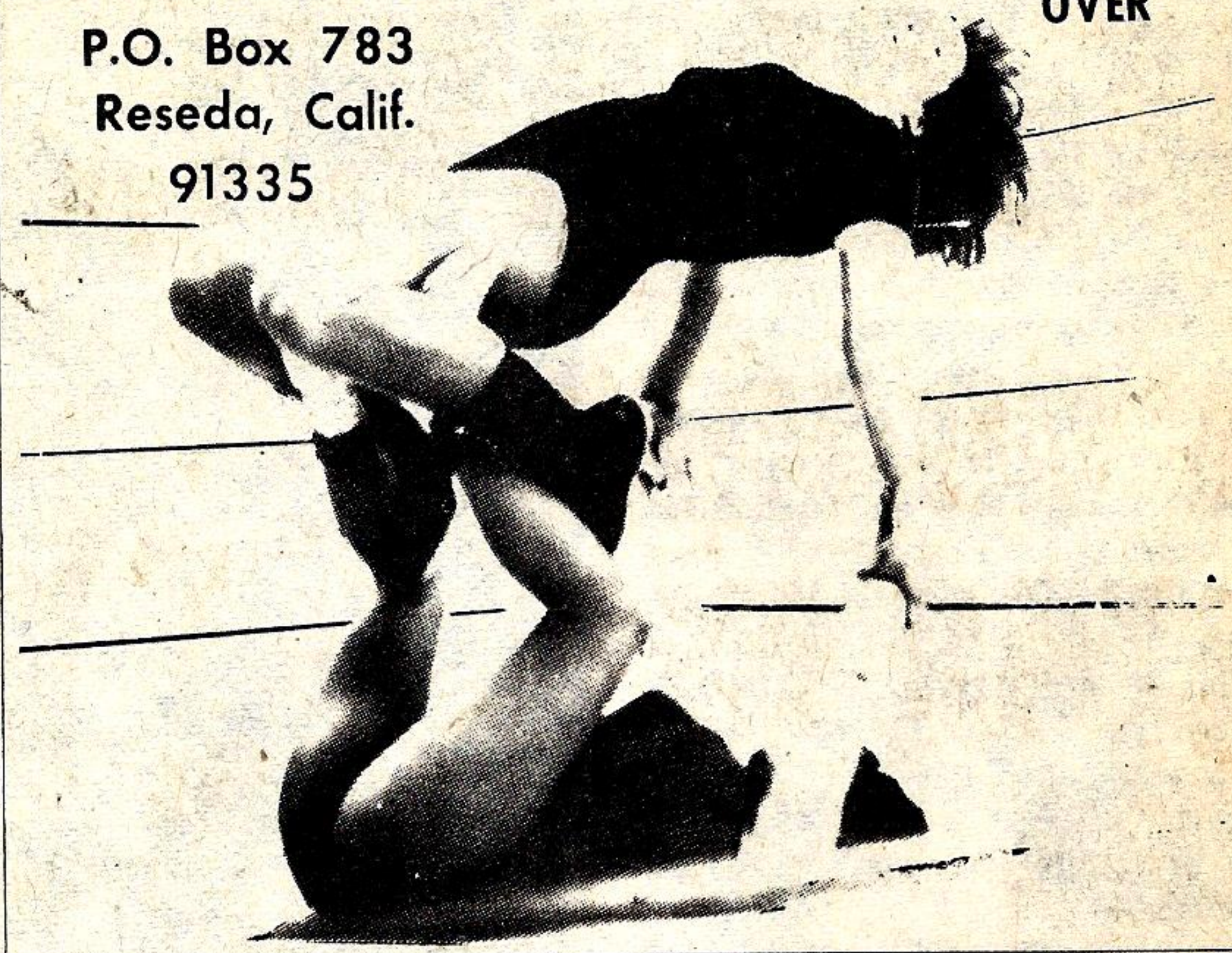
Rick learned his lessons well from these two top-notch grapplers, and eventually made his way back home by appearing in Louisiana, Oklahoma, Alabama and Georgia. McGraw is currently appearing in the Carolinas and Virginia where he has gained an army of fans.

A recent match with Kim Duk was one of the most thrilling matches ever held at the Charlotte Coliseum.

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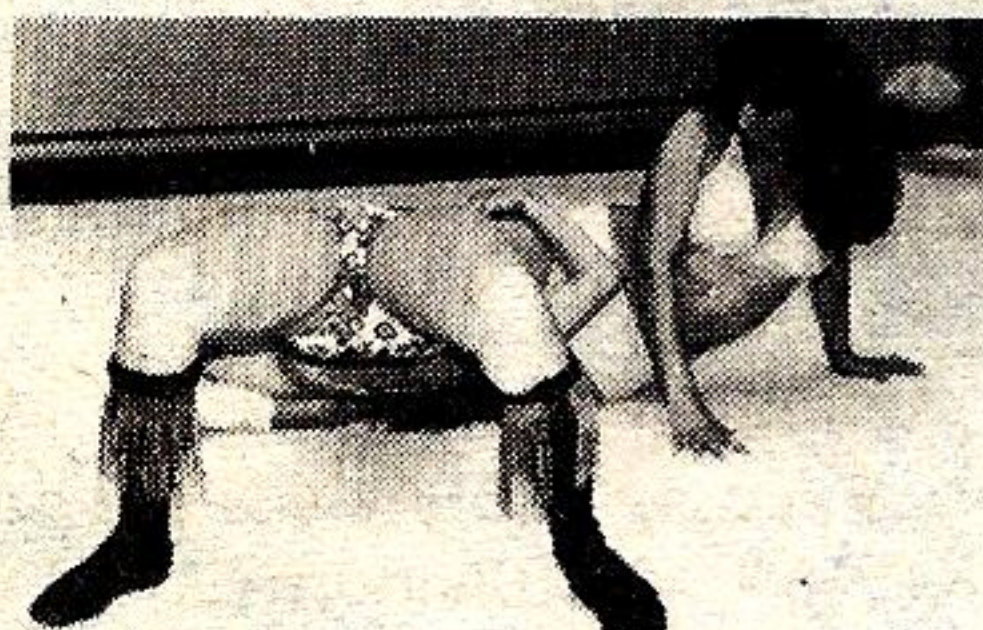


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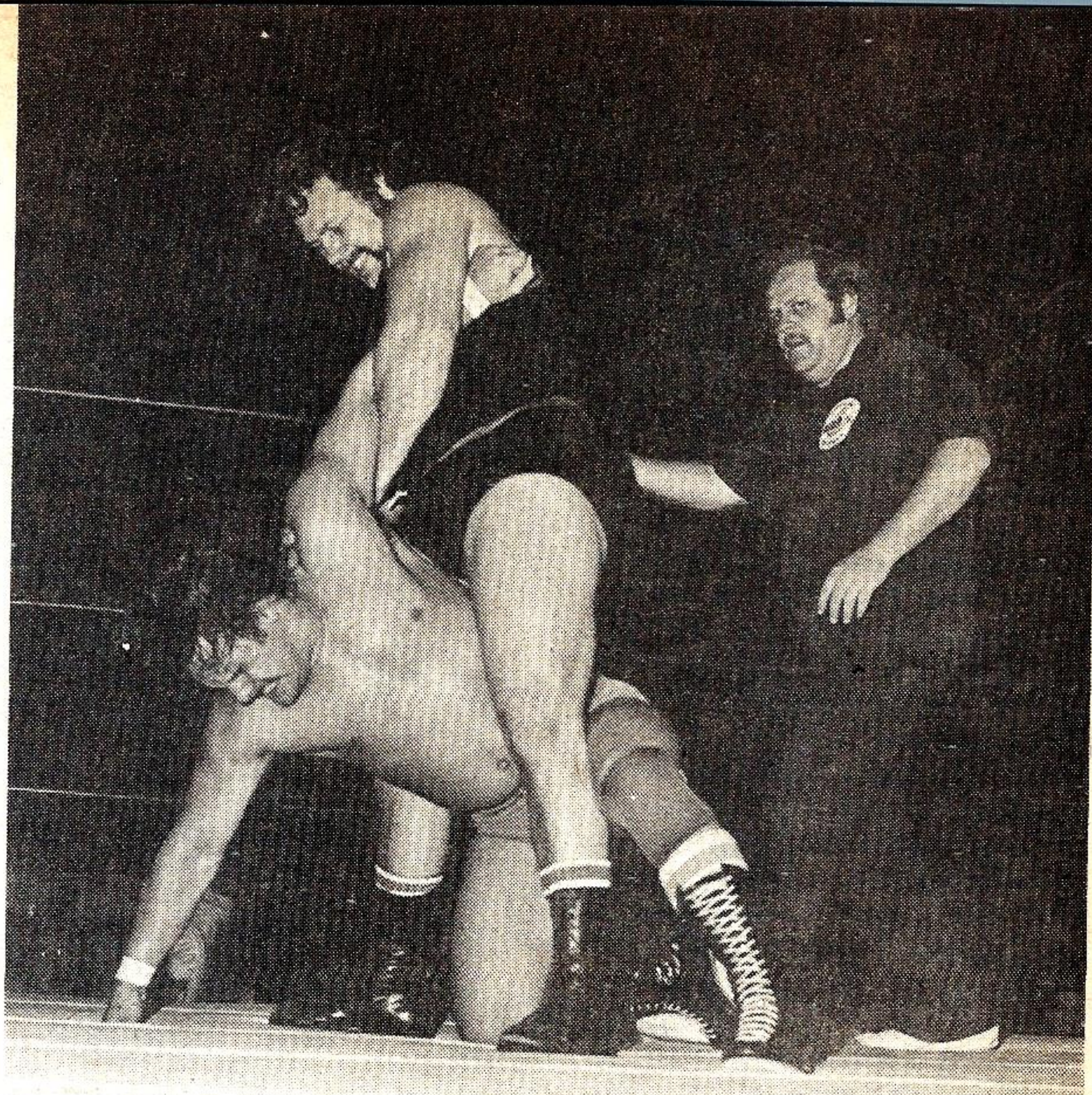
and Rick more than held his own with the feared Oriental mat star to insure himself top bookings in the future.

Some of the rough and rugged mat veterans are fooled by McGraw's appearance as they figure this handsome, ever-smiling youngster can't withstand the rigors of the rock-'em, sock-'em wrestling world. However, when they try to get rough with Rick they soon discover they made a mistake as you can't judge a book by its cover.

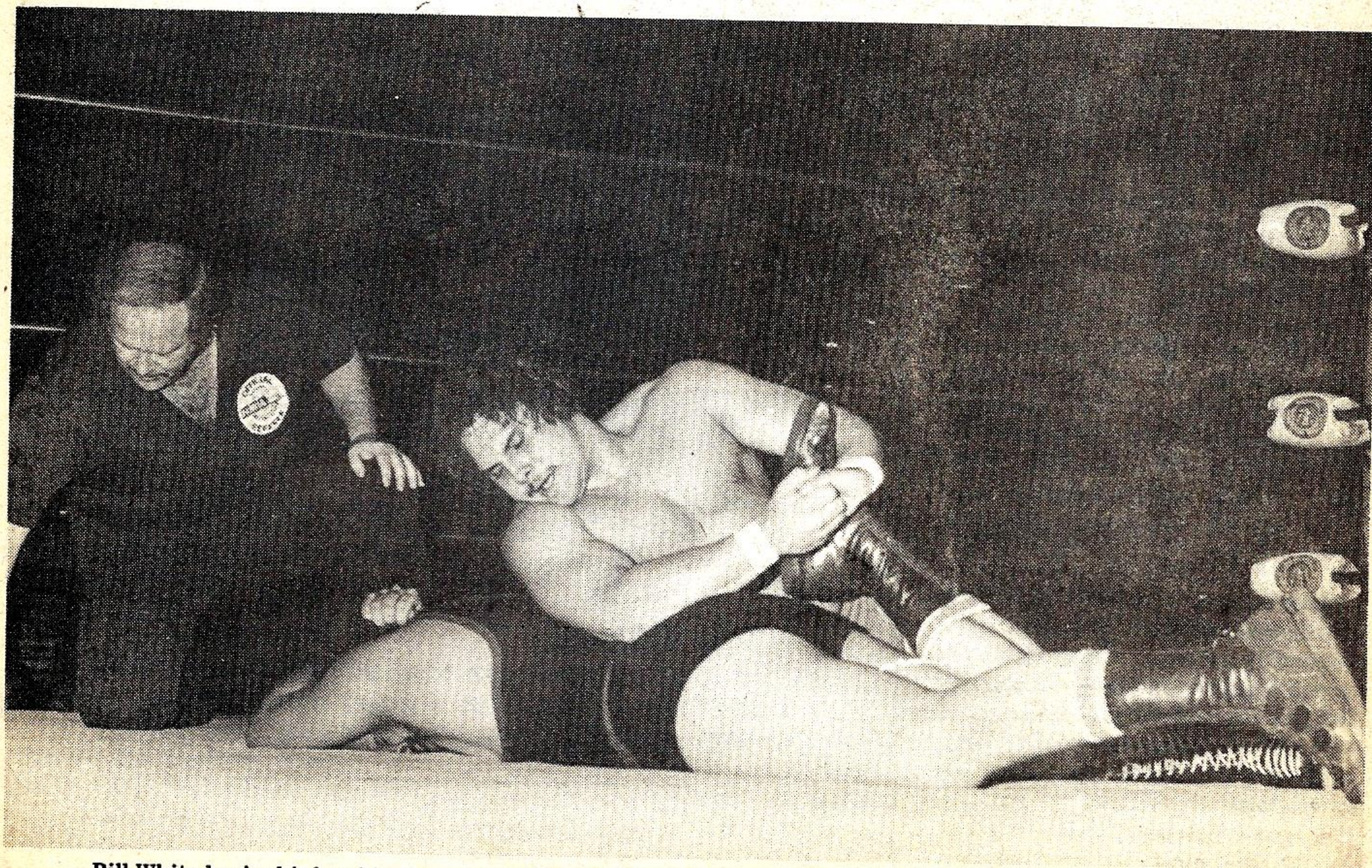
McGraw prefers to cut his opponents down to size with his scientific skills, but when his opponents get Rick's Scotch-Irish temper up then they had better be prepared for the worst as he is capable of beating the vilest villains at their own game if need be.

So, if the name Rick McGraw appears on a poster in your area or he appears on a television wrestling program make it a point to watch him in action, you won't be disappointed.

Wrestlers come and go in the dog-eat-dog world of professional wrestling, but McGraw appears to have what it takes to reach the pinnacle in his chosen profession.



Wrestling is a give-and-take proposition and here Rick McGraw is on the receiving end as Bill White administers a painful armlock.



Bill White buries his head in the canvas as he tries to fight back the pain while Rick McGraw works on his leg.



A favorite of the fans wherever he appears, Rick McGraw is always willing to sign autographs or pose for a picture with some of his supporters, such as these two female fans.

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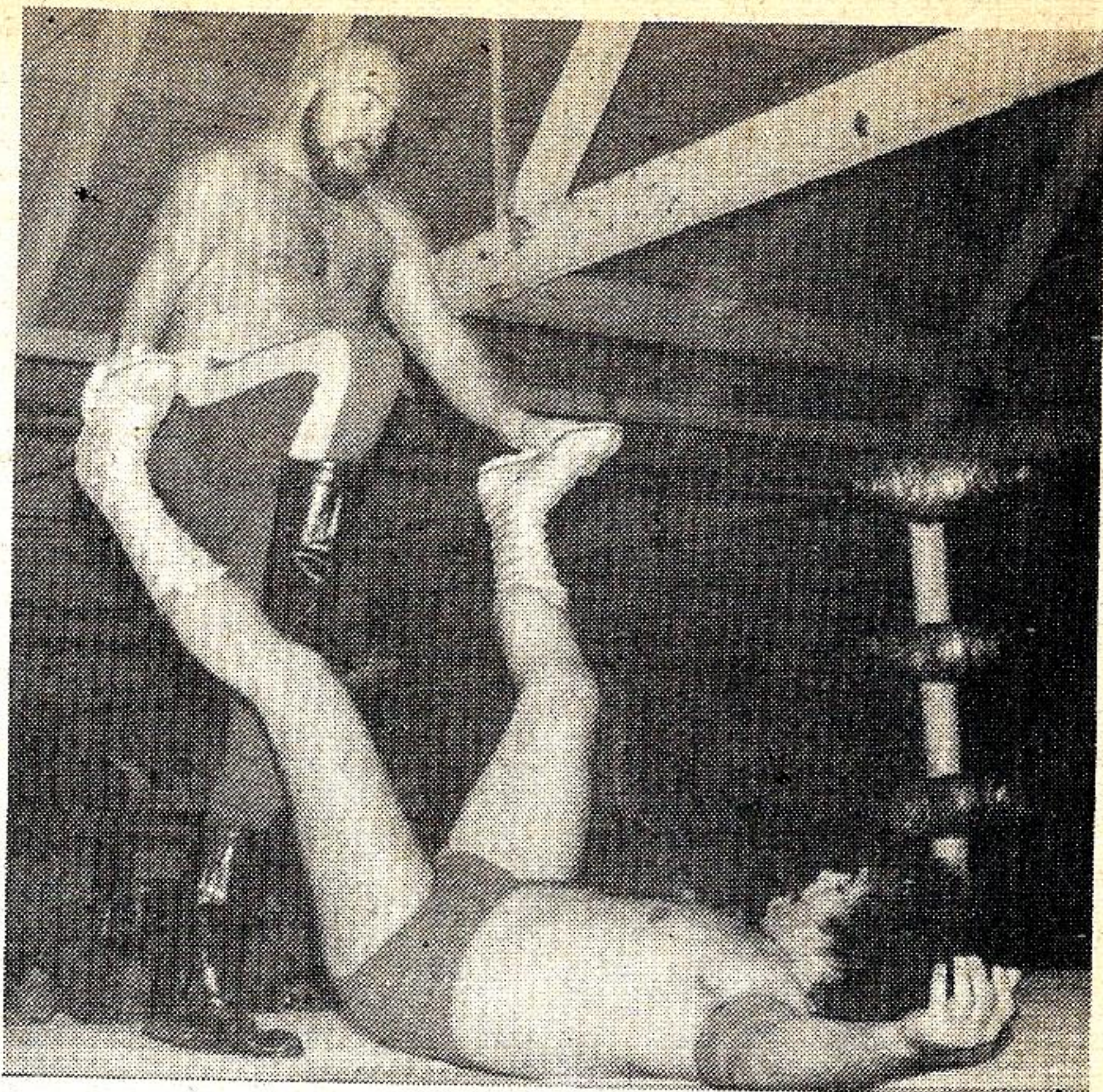
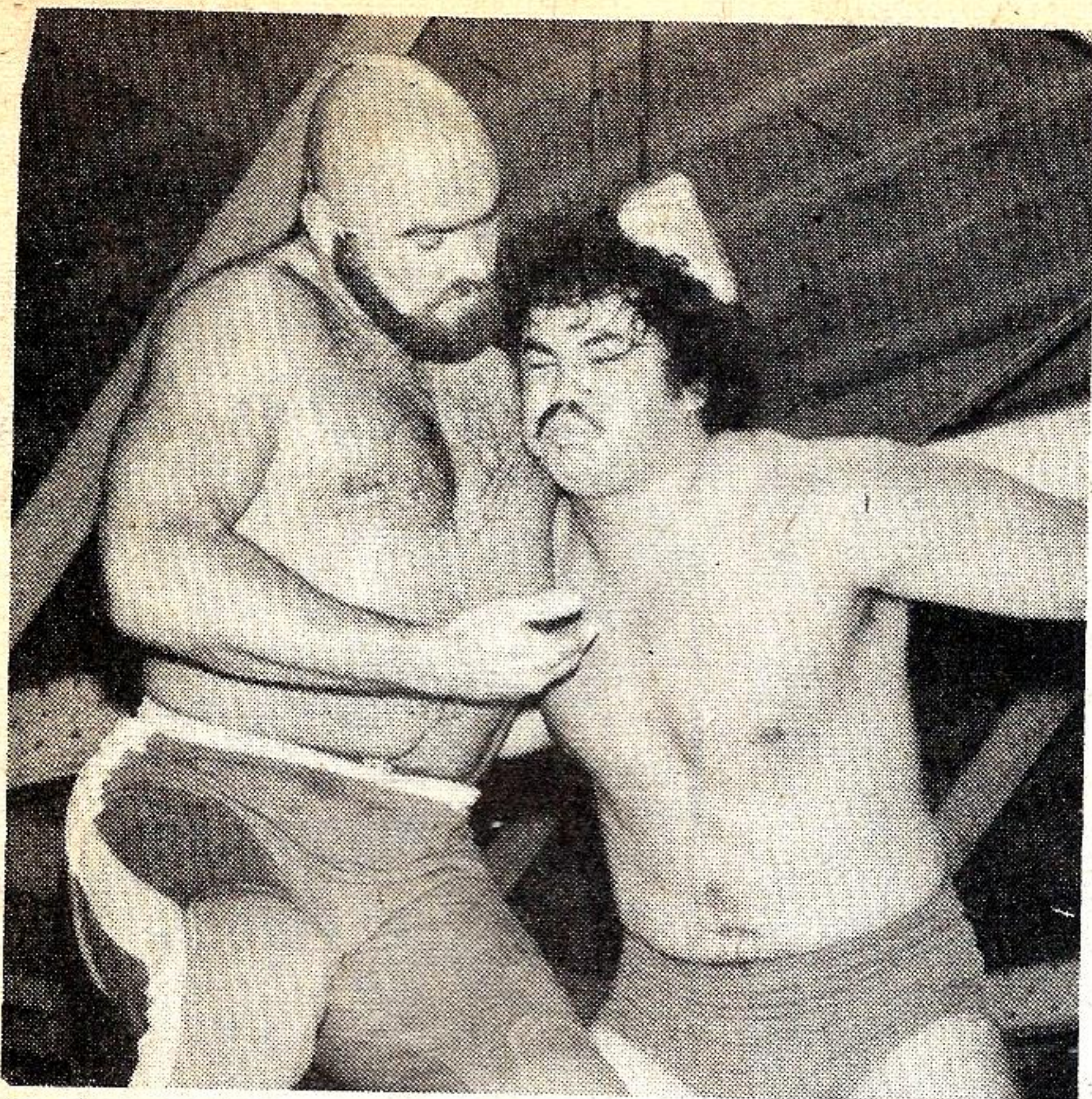
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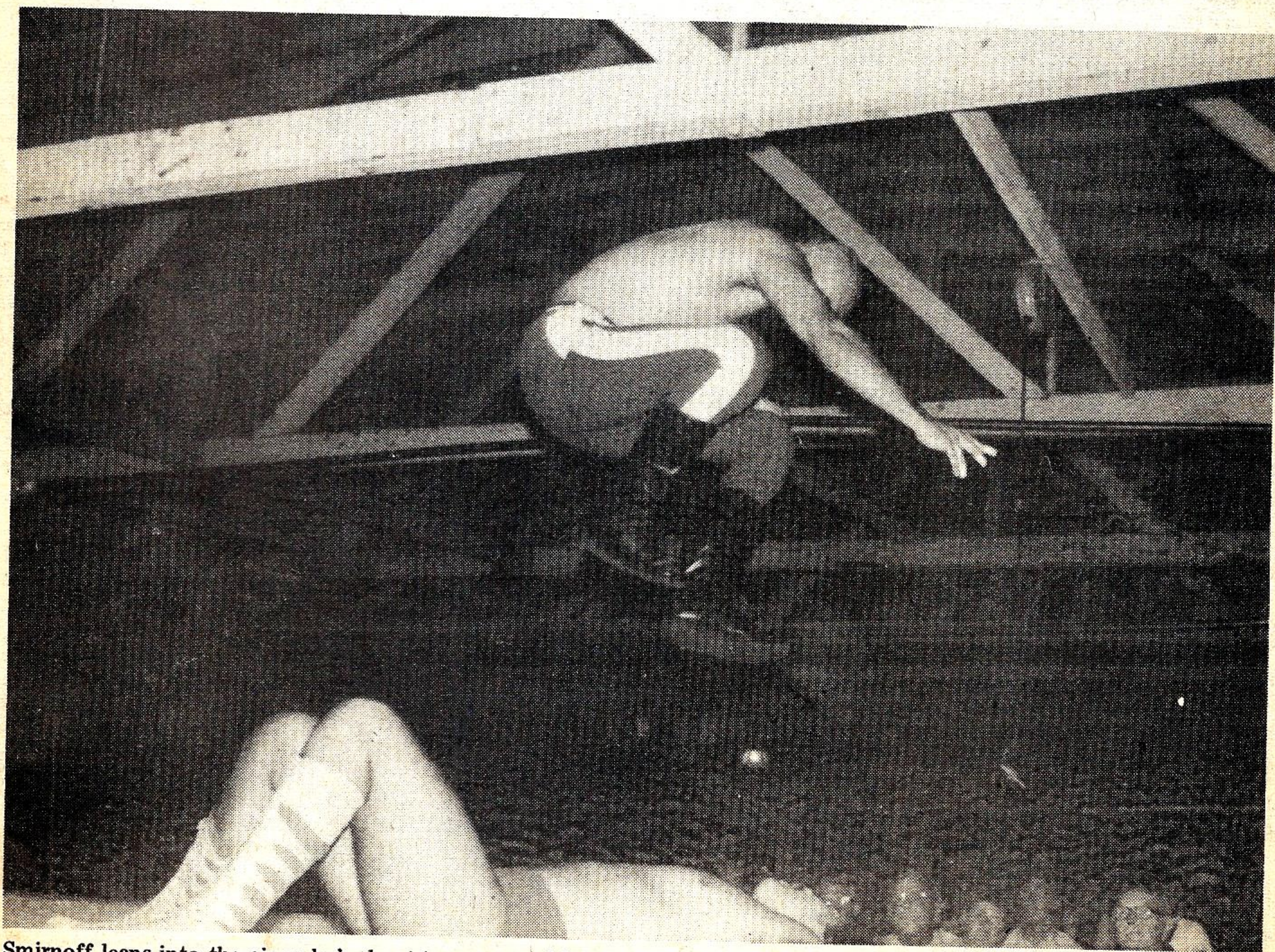
X-LARGE ☐ 12 ☐

14 ☐



The bell hadn't even sounded as Alexis Smirnoff pounced on Alberto Madril and started to soften him up by driving his taped fingers into Madril's throat.

Still groggy from Smirnoff's sneak attack, Alberto Madril is about to be stomped on by the mad Russian.



Smirnoff leaps into the air as he's about to come crashing down on the chest of Madril. Alberto never recovered from Alexis' onslaught and lost the first fall when Smirnoff applied his backbreaker.

SHOWDOWN IN MODESTO

by LARRY BARNHIZER

In the days of the old West, it wasn't uncommon for a gunfighter to give the man he was hunting time to leave town alive.

"Get out of town before sundown or be prepared to die," was the ominous warning often given by a gunfighter.

So, wrestlers Alexis Smirnoff and Alberto Madril stole a page from the days of the Wild, Wild West when they signed for a United States championship match. Not only was Smirnoff's U.S. title on the line, but the loser had to leave town and never wrestle in Modesto, Calif., again.

"I'm getting sick and tired of beating Madril," stated Smirnoff before the bout. However, Alberto had won their last meeting by disqualification when Alexis slugged the referee to save his title.

In fact, Smirnoff agreed to a rematch with Madril to avoid an immediate suspension as slugging the referee is a no-no in Modesto mat circles.

Madril was thankful to Modesto promoter Johnny Miller for giving him another crack at Smirnoff's U.S. championship.

"The only way Smirnoff can keep his title is by getting himself disqualified or by resorting to foul tactics. Smirnoff is not only a disgrace to the Russian people but a poor excuse for a United States champion as he doesn't conduct himself like a champion should.

"If I lose, I'll have to leave Modesto and I've grown very fond of this area and the Modesto fans. I'll do everything in my power to send Alexis Smirnoff back to Russia," said Madril.

However, a picture is worth 1,000 words so we'll let these photos by Wrestling Monthly photographer Larry Barnhizer tell the story of the 'Showdown in Modesto'.

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By CHAMP THOMAS

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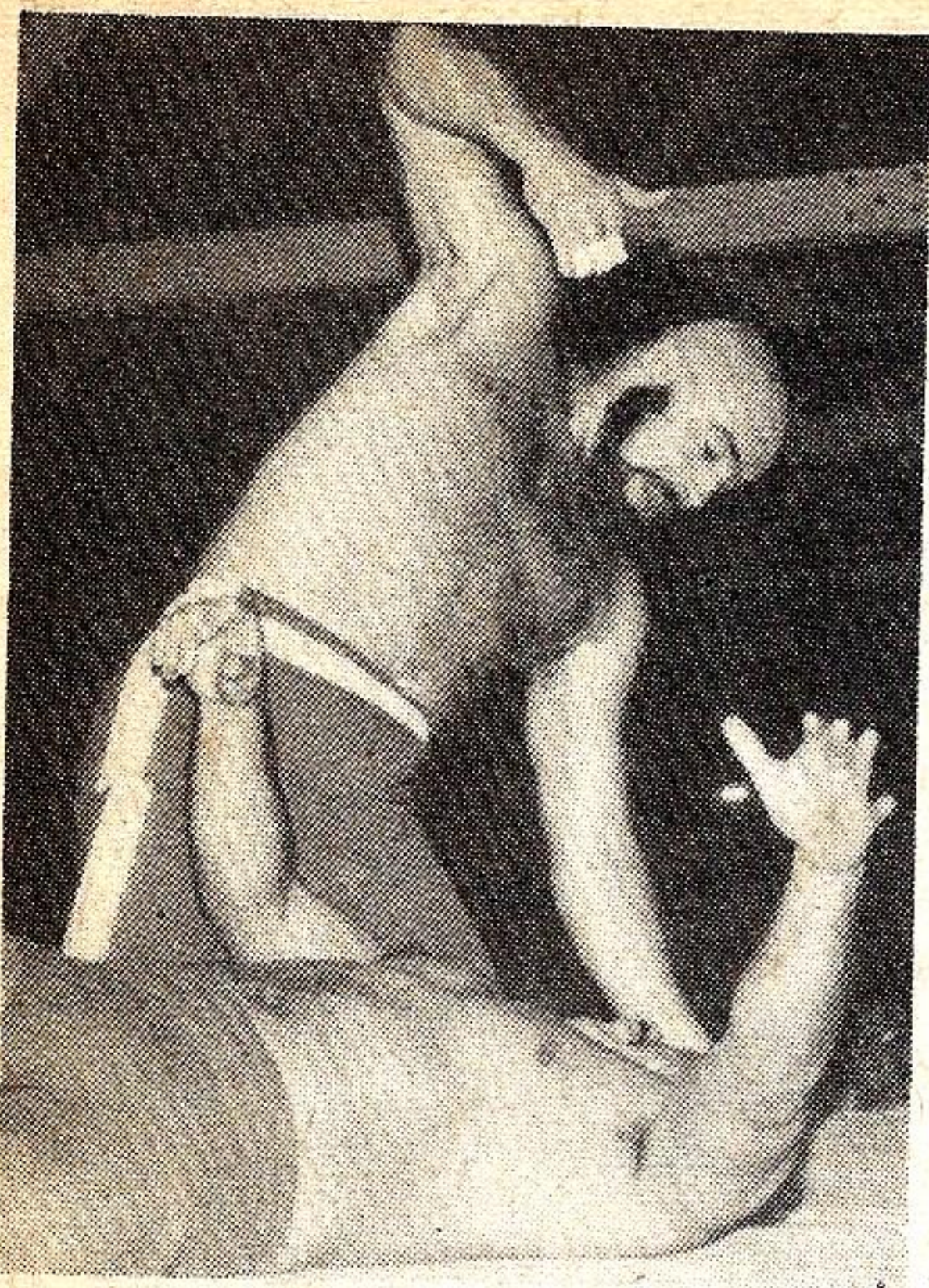
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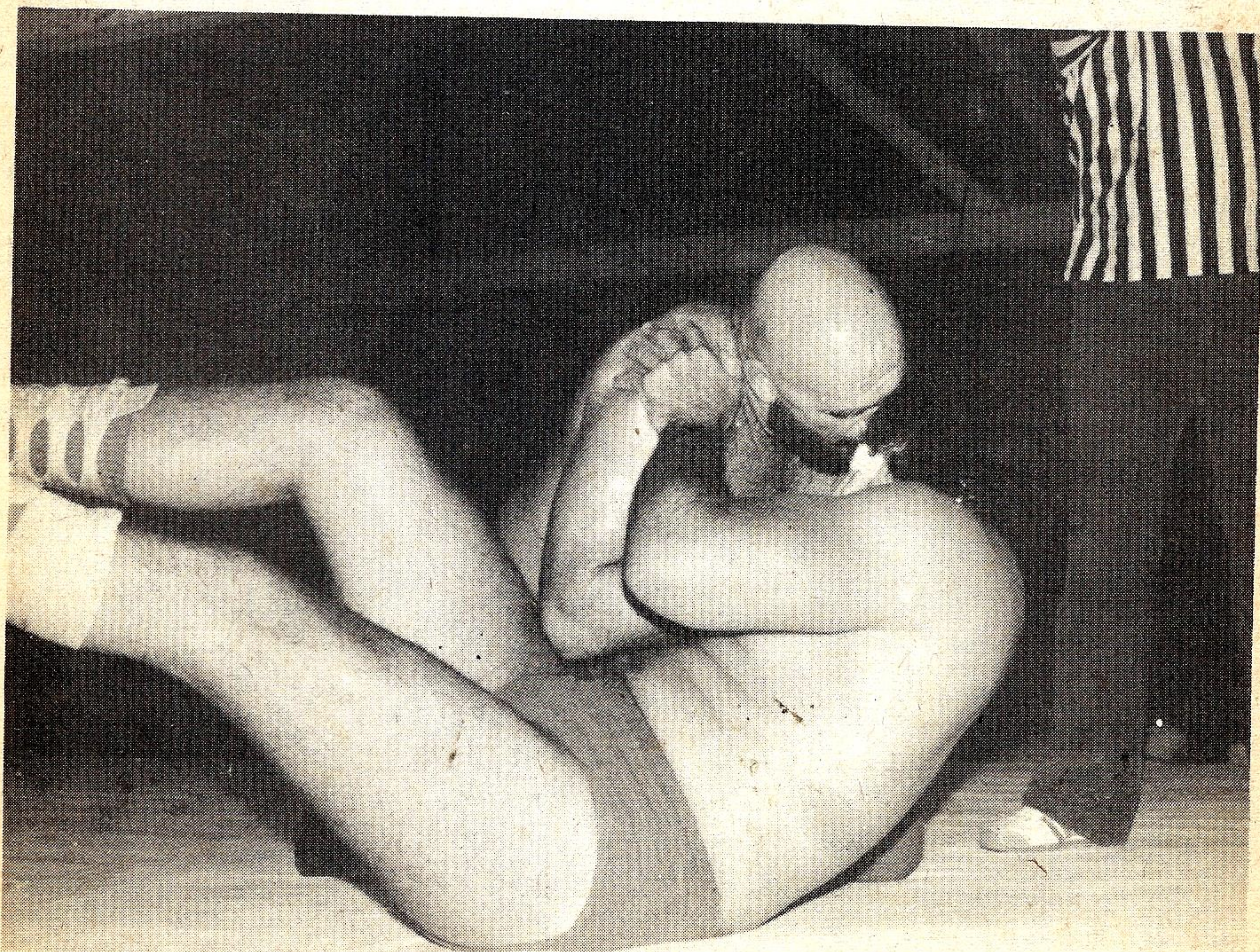
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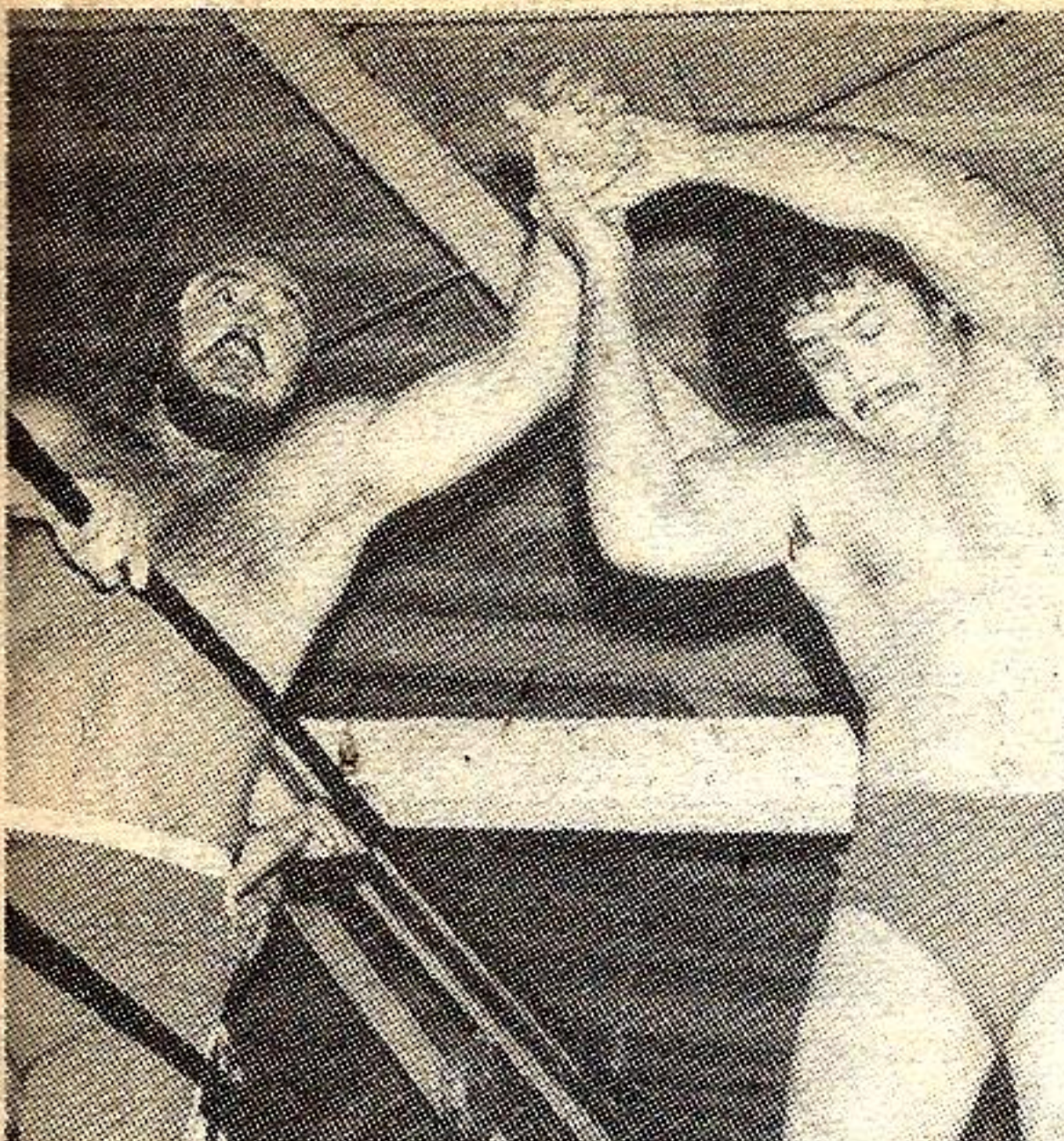
The U.S. champion Smirnoff continues to soften Madril up as he drives his taped fingers into the throat of the Mexican matman.



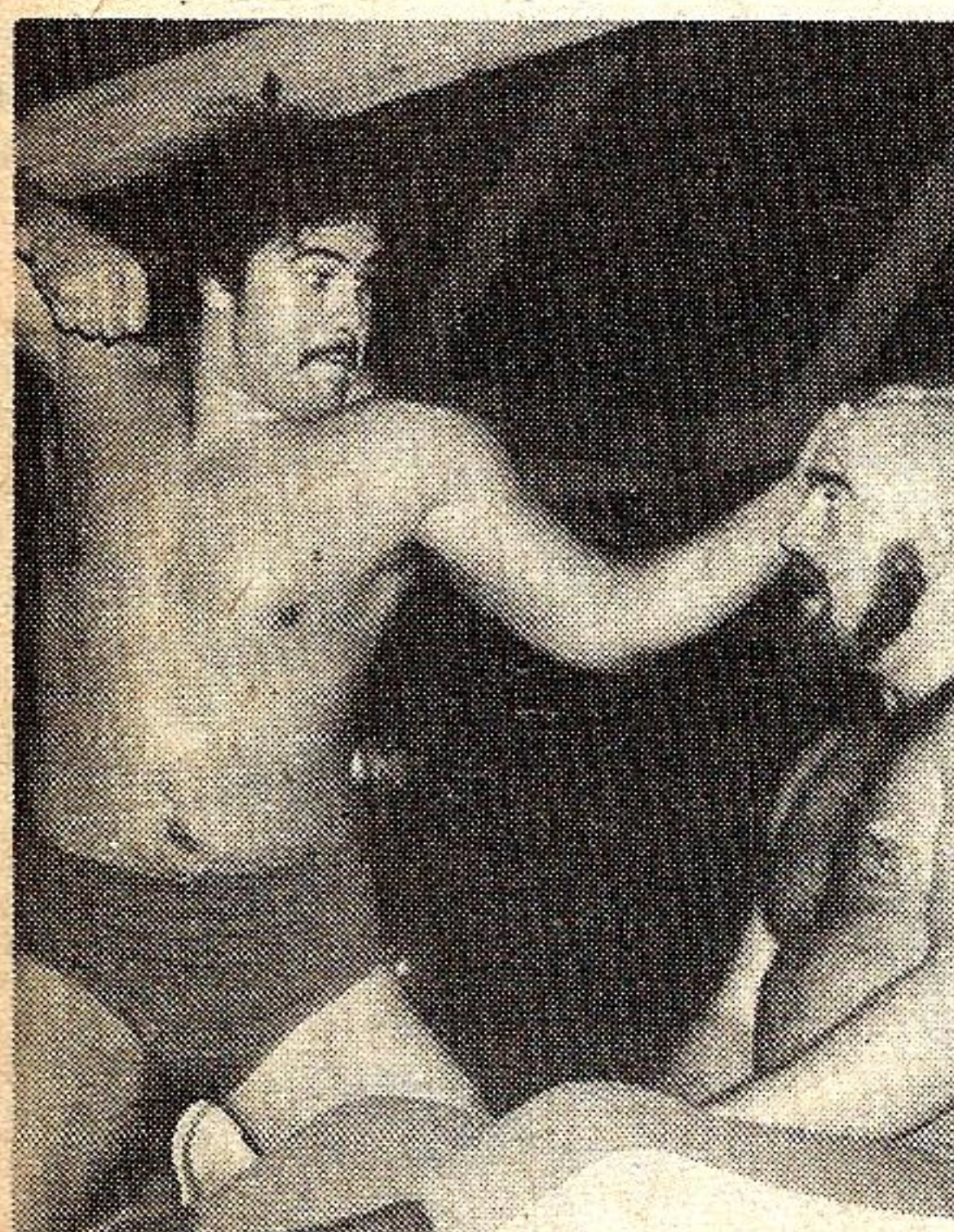
Smirnoff continues his onslaught by picking Madril up and tossing him into the lap of a female fan at ringside.



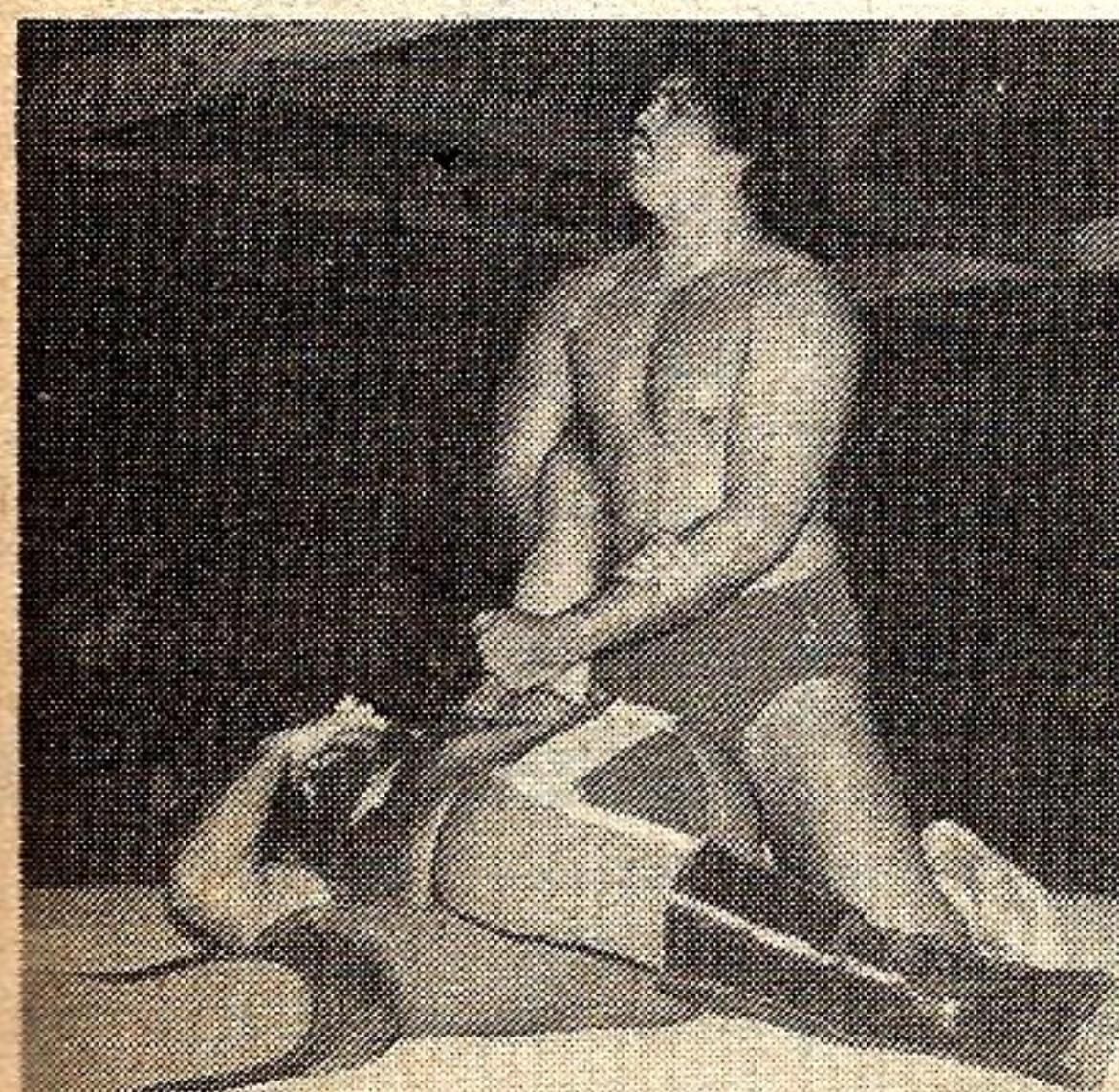
When the action returned to the middle ring, Smirnoff apparently decided it was time for a snack and started to chew away at the forehead of Madril.



Bouncing back from Smirnoff's ruthless attack, Madril is about to send the Russian sailing over the ropes and back into the ring as he attempts to escape.



A groggy Smirnoff is a sitting duck for the fired-up Madril who gets set to deliver a right to the head of the Russian.



Smirnoff fights back the pain as Madril applies an armbar in an attempt to make the Russian concede.

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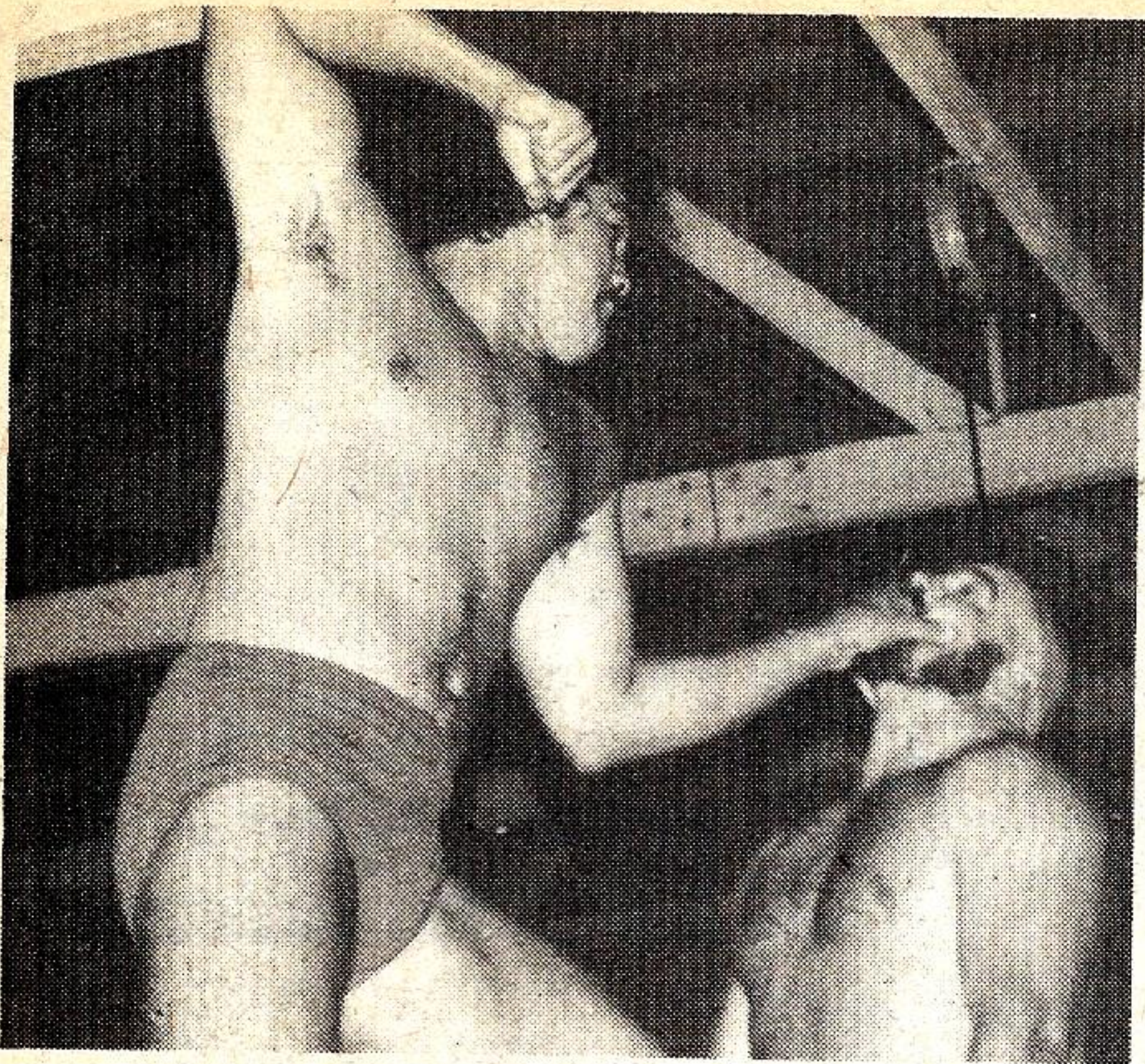


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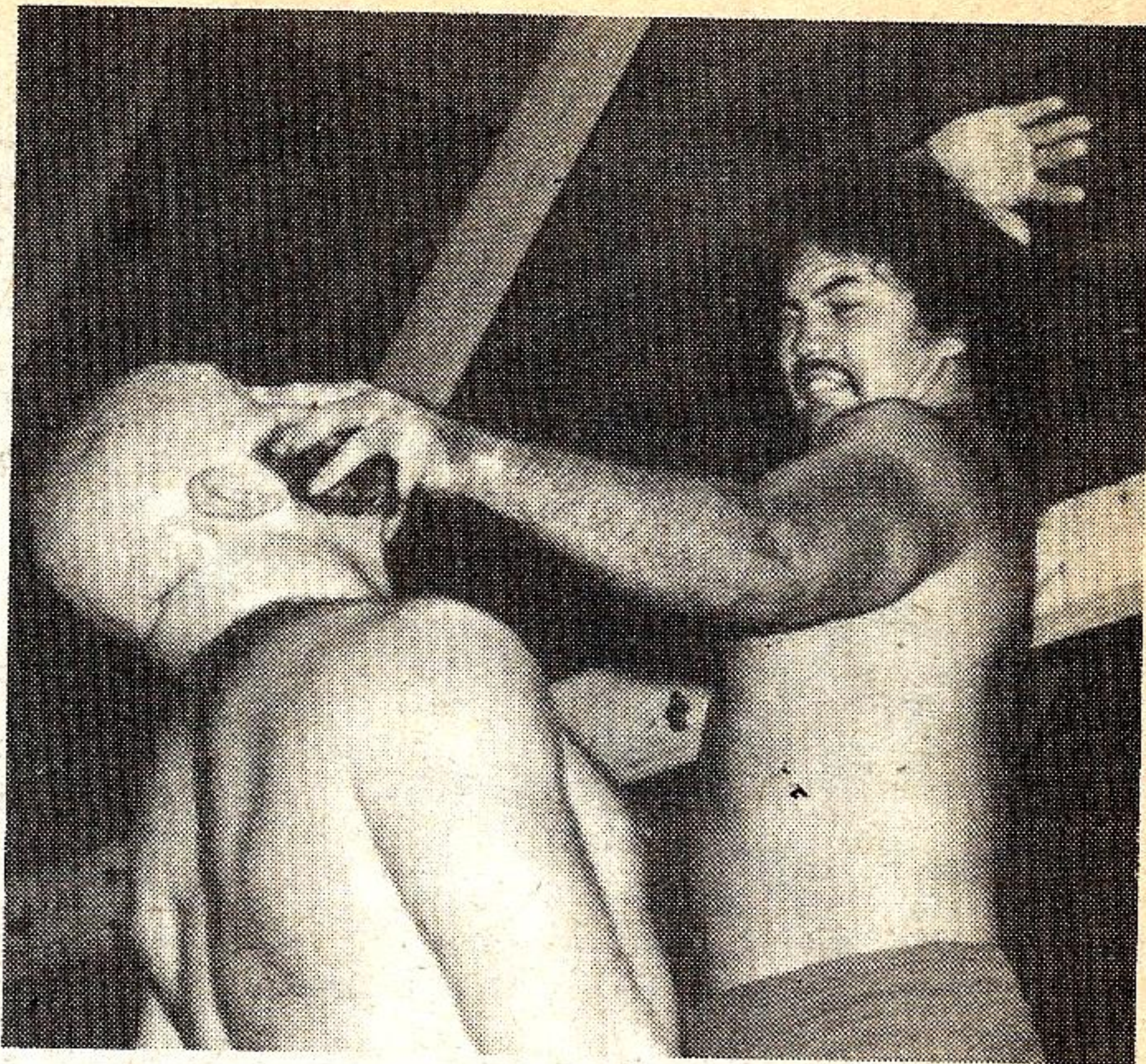
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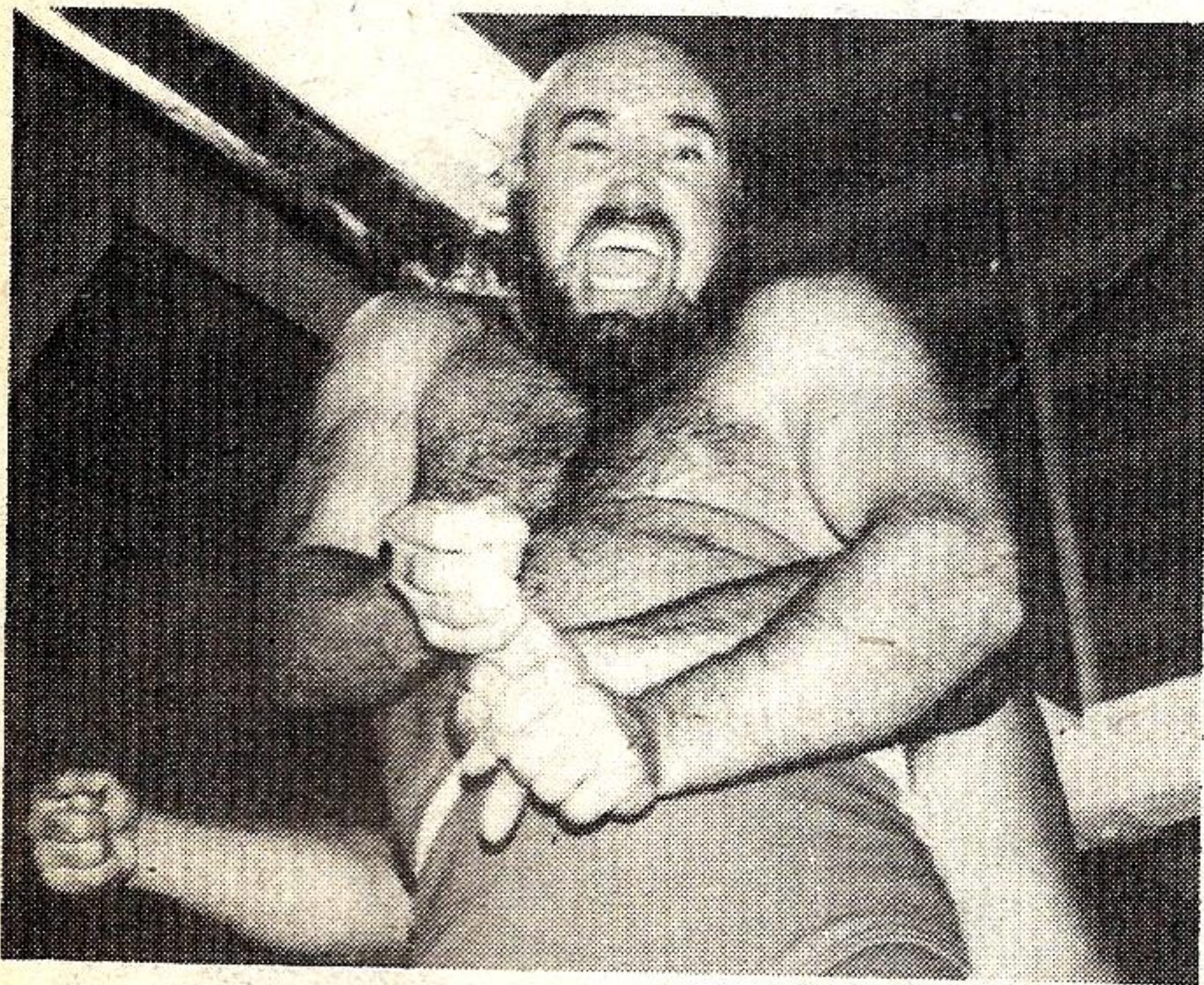
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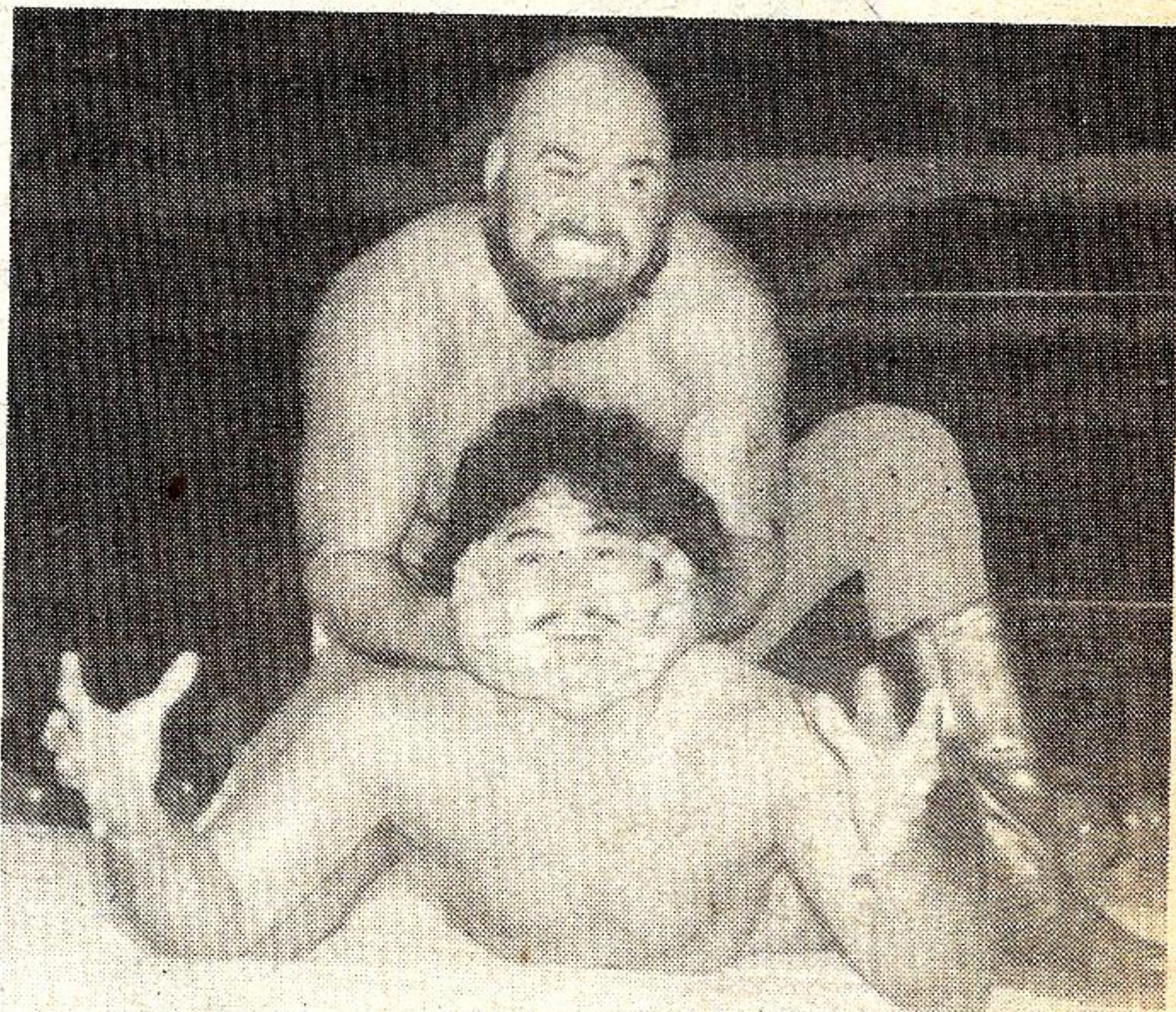
After Smirnoff had missed a shoulder block and smashed into the turnbuckle, Madril took advantage of the opportunity to dish out some punishment of his own as he sets up Alexis for this right to the jaw.



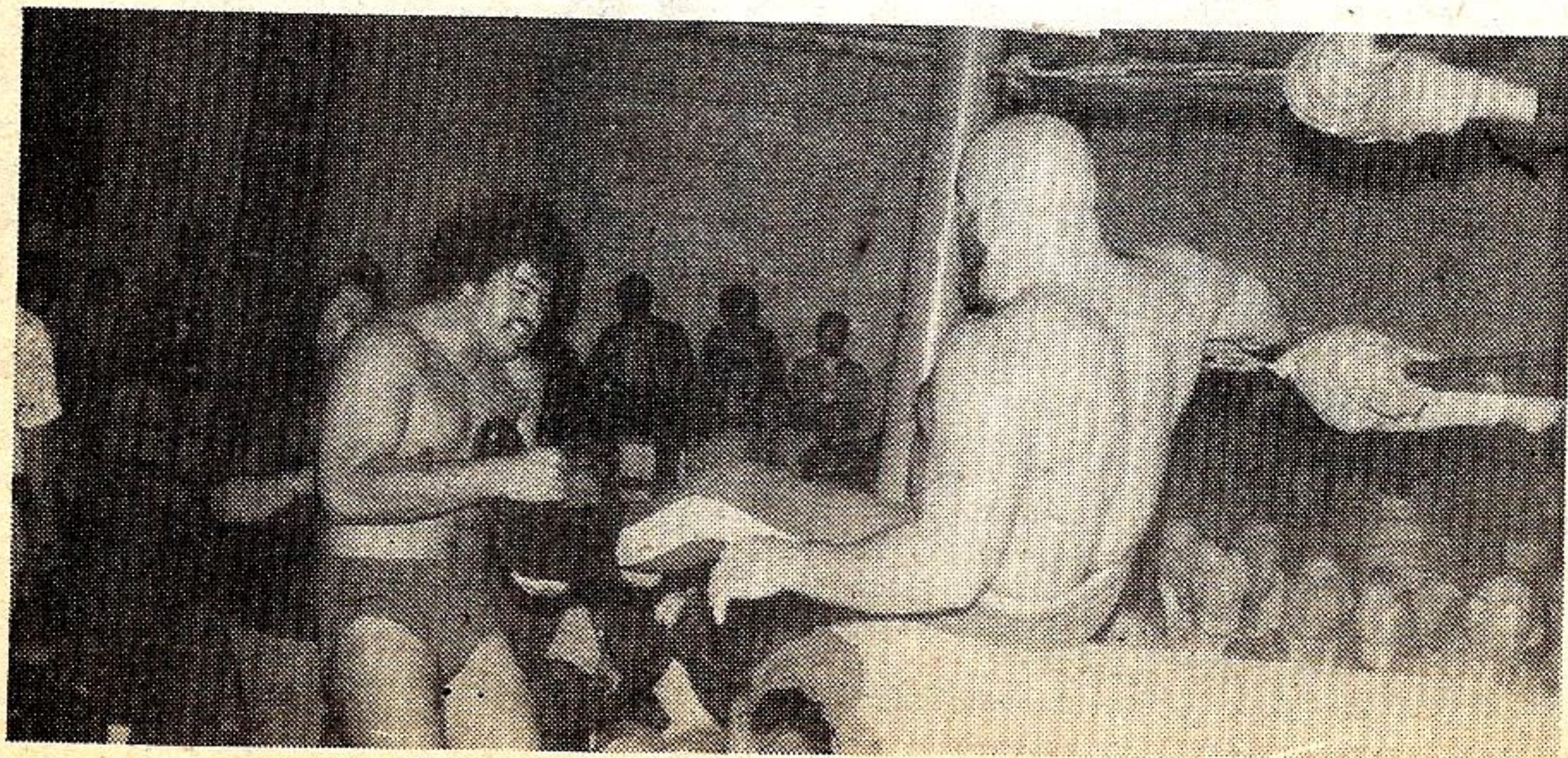
A karate chop to the throat by Madril not only makes swallowing more difficult for Smirnoff but softens him up for the flying shoulder block and body press which evened the match at one fall each.



There was no quarter given or asked in the deciding fall. Note the expression of fiendish delight on Smirnoff's face as he twists Madril's fingers.

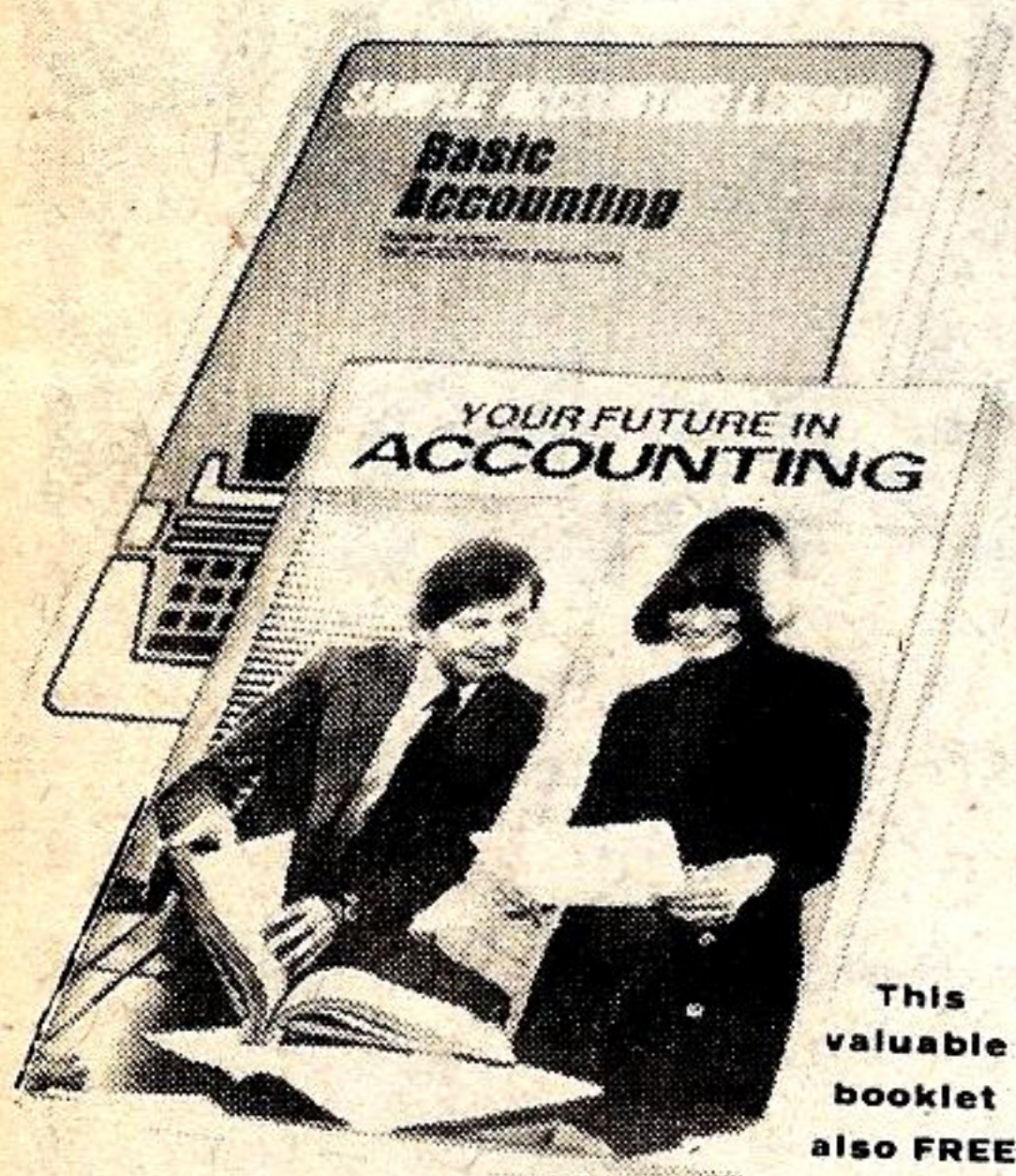


▲ Alexis Smirnoff smiles for the photographer and tries to make Alberto Madril do the same but Alberto has nothing to smile about as the mad Russian rips at his mouth.



◀ When Alberto Madril attempted to return to the ring, he was greeted by a foot to the midsection courtesy of the villainous Alexis Smirnoff. He finished up his dirty tactics with a reverse shoulder press, gained by pulling on Madril's trunks as he applied the pin. However, the ref didn't notice and Madril had to leave Modesto.

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WRESTLING MONTHLY RATINGS



When it comes to unpopularity, Abdullah The Butcher (right) is high on everyone's list. Big Bad John isn't likely to win any 'Mr. Nice Guy' polls either.

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion — Superstar Billy Graham

1. Bruno Sammartino
2. Bob Backlund
3. Ivan Putski
4. Ken Patera
5. Chief Jay Strongbow
6. Baron Fritz Von Raschke
7. Peter Maivia
8. Larry Zbyszko
9. Tony Garea
- 10 George (The Animal) Steele

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion — Nick Bockwinkle

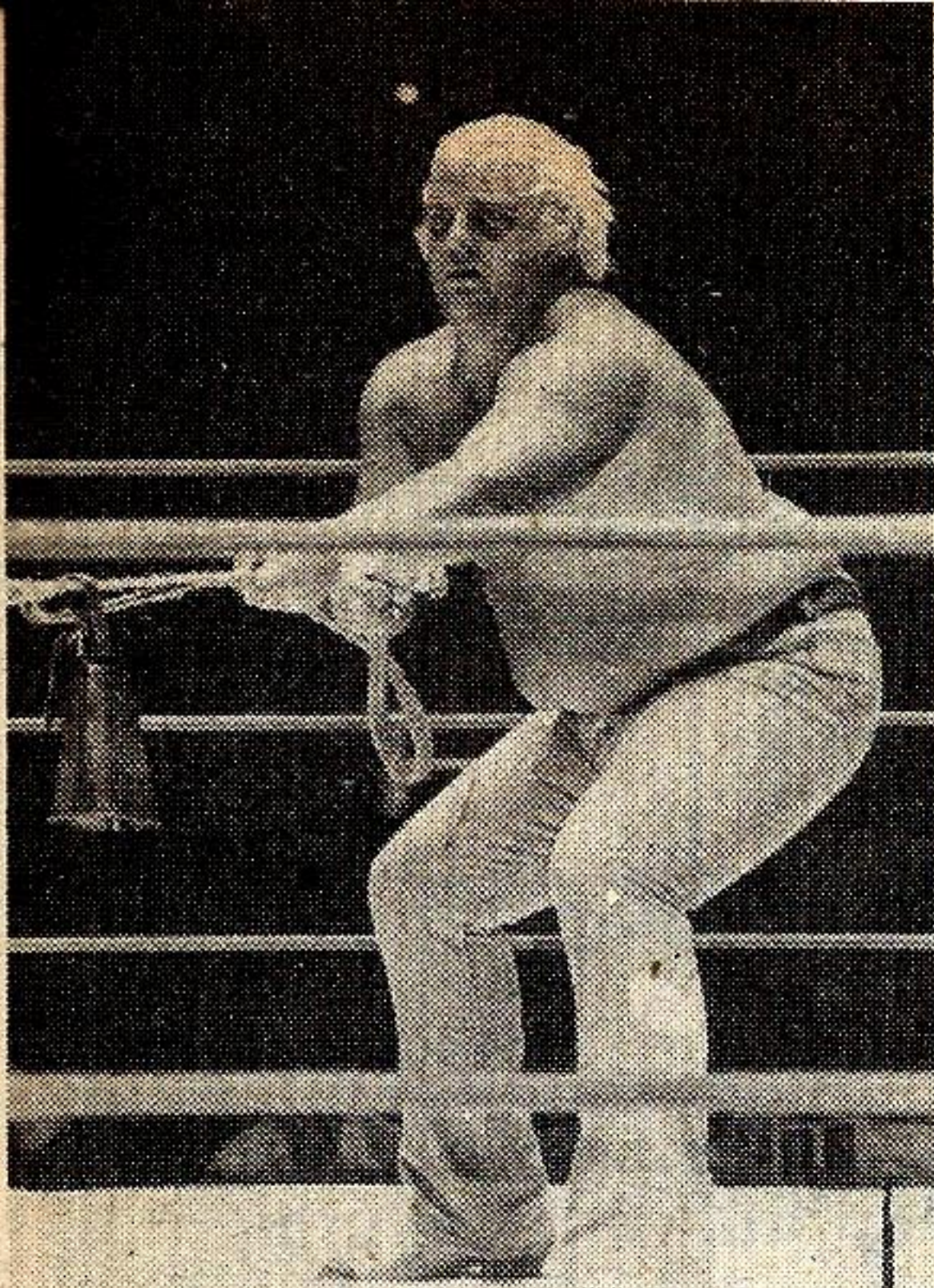
1. Billy Robinson

2. Ray Stevens
3. Verne Gagne
4. Greg Gagne
5. Jim Brunzell
6. Larry Hennig
7. Pedro Morales
8. Super Destroyer
9. Angelo Mosca
10. Lord Al Hayes

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion — Harley Race

1. Dusty Rhodes
2. Terry Funk
3. Paul Jones
4. Jack Brisco
5. Dory Funk Jr.



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6. The Sheik
7. Ric Flair
8. Ivan Koloff
9. Stan Hansen
10. Mike Graham

TOP TAG TEAMS

1. Black Jack Lanza and Bob Duncum
2. Ole and Gene Anderson
3. Ric Flair and Greg Valentine
4. Chief Jay Strongbow and Billy White Wolf
5. Mr. Fugi and Professor Tanaka
6. Jack and Jerry Brisco
7. Goliath and Black Gordman
8. Jim and John Valiant
9. Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne
10. The Executioners

VILEST VILLAINS

1. Abdullah The Butcher
2. The Sheik
3. Ox Baker
4. Stan Hansen
5. Ken Patera
6. Baron Fritz Von Raschke
7. Superstar Billy Graham
8. Bruiser Brodie
9. Roddy Piper
10. Nick Bockwinkel

MOST POPULAR PERFORMERS

1. Bruno Sammartino
2. Dusty Rhodes
3. Andre The Giant
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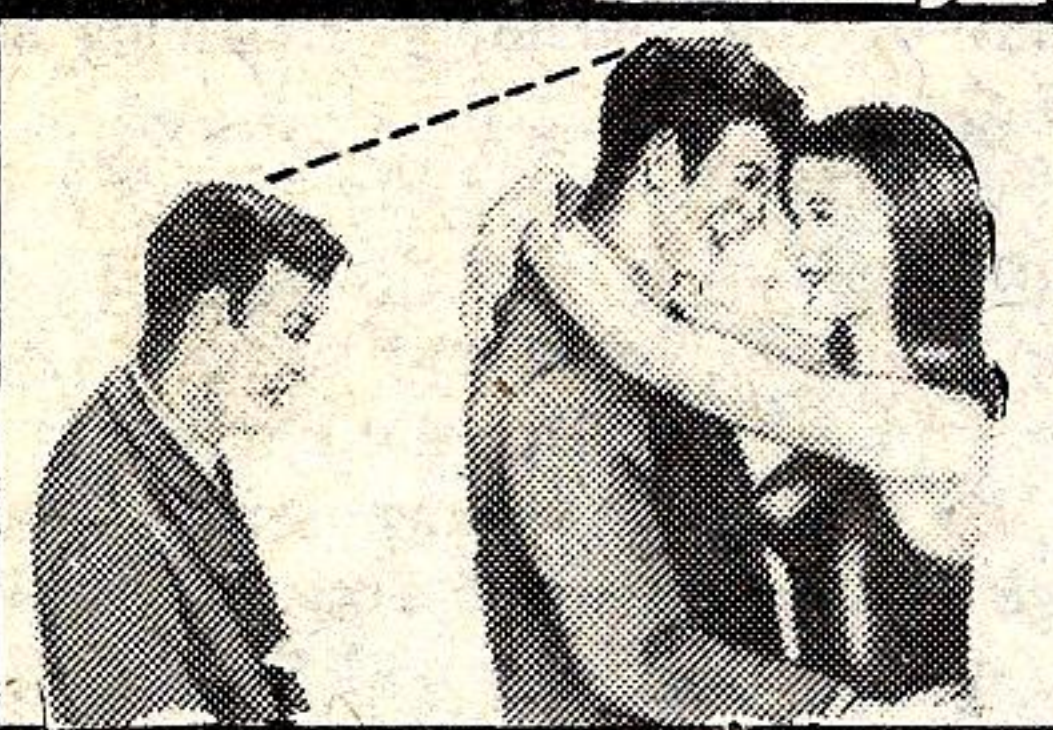
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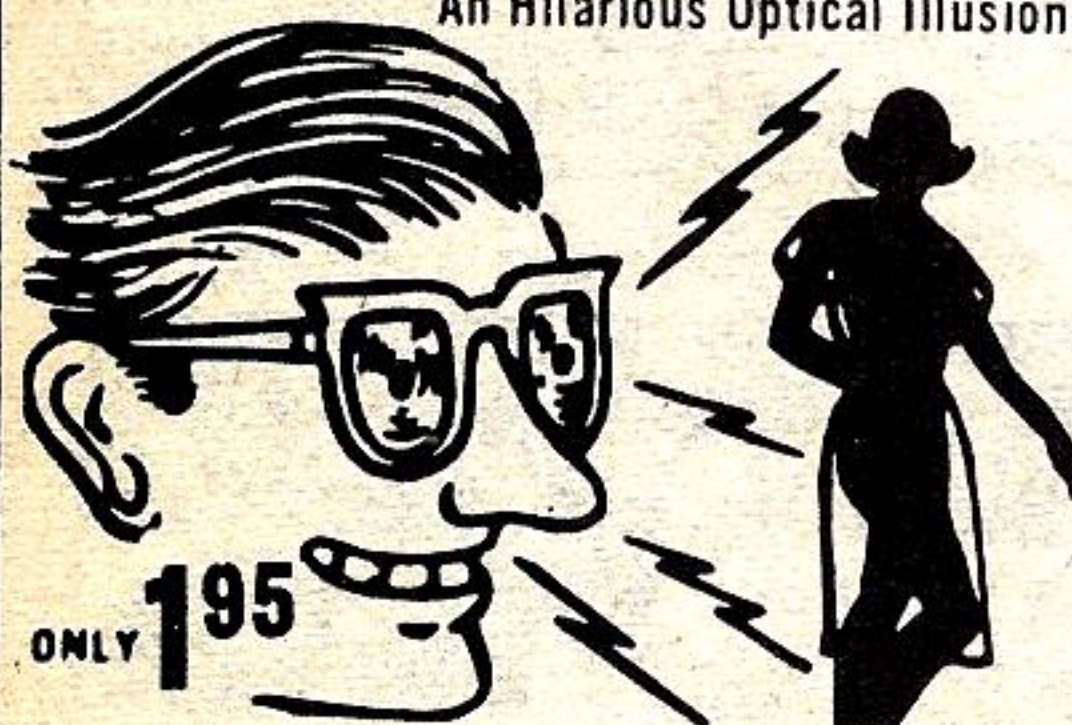
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THE GRAPPLING GAME'S FIERCEST FEUD

By TONY VALOTTA

The wonderful world of wrestling has always had its feuds, including some that would rank alongside that of the legendary Hatfields and McCoys.

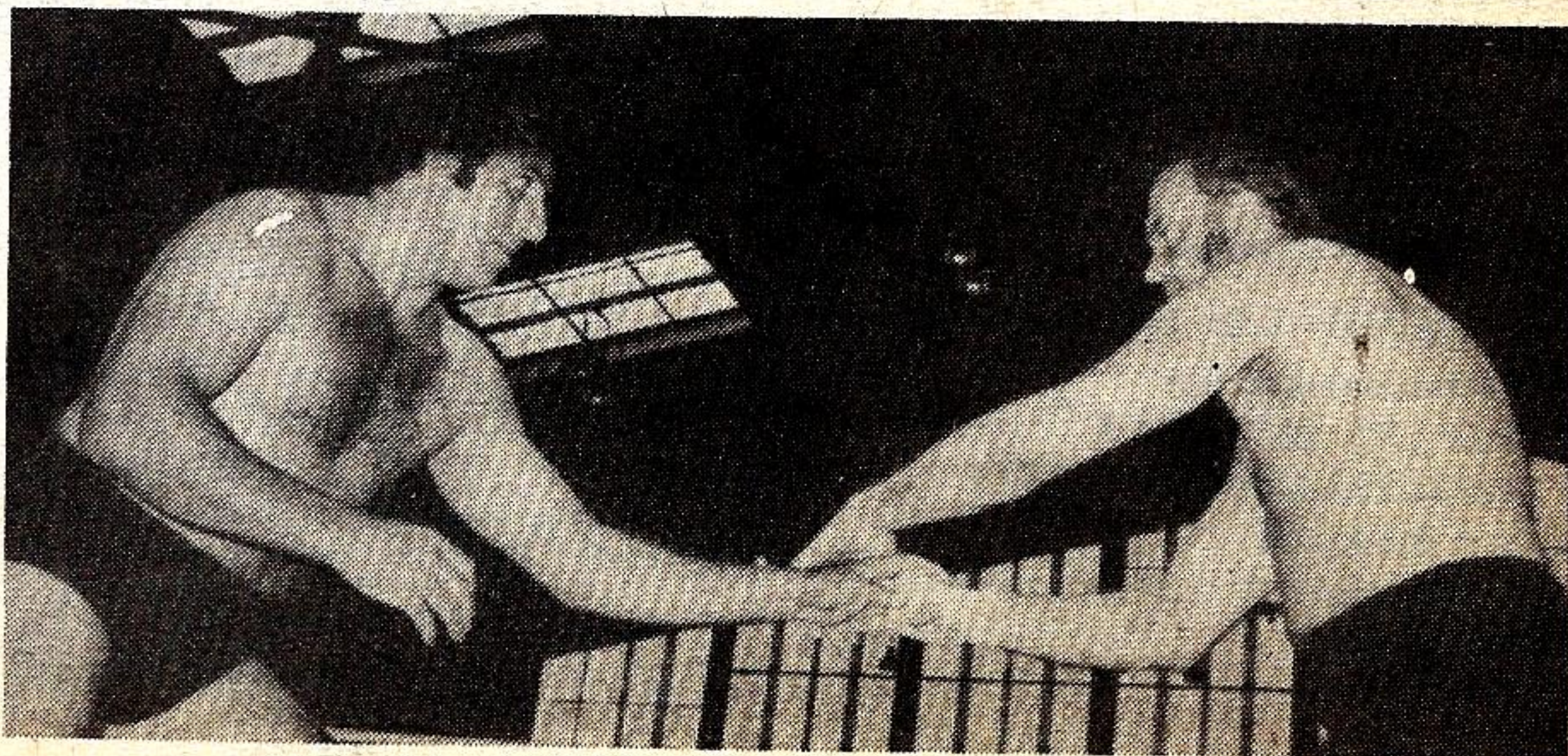
One of the grappling game's most bitter feuds is that between Italy's Domenic DeNucci and former world champion Stan (The Man) Stasiak.

This feud was born several years ago when DeNucci was the North American champion and Stasiak kept interfering in his matches until he finally earned a crack at Domenic's title.

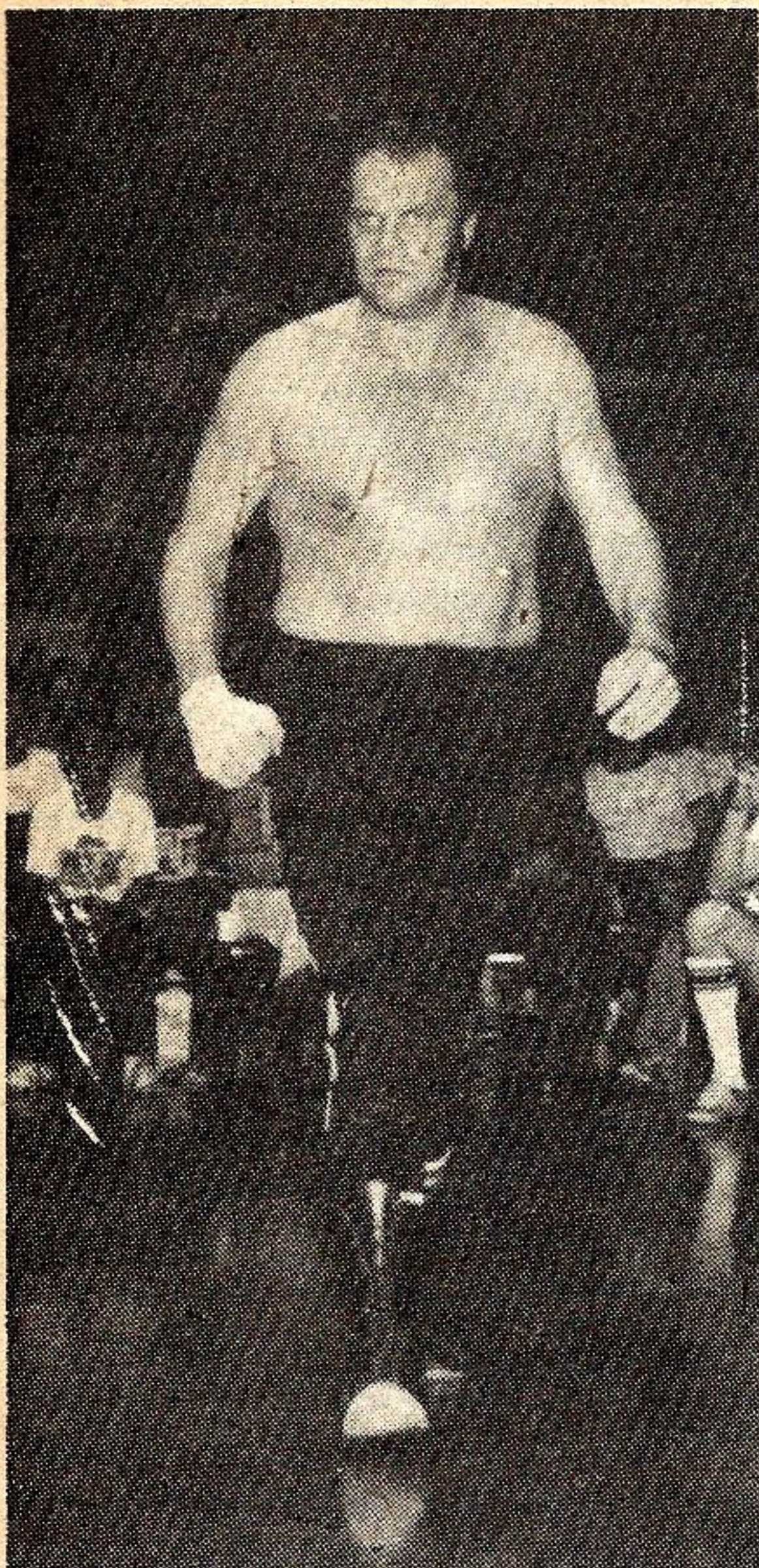
The championship clash took place in Pittsburgh, Pa., with Stasiak pinning DeNucci to take the title even though Domenic had his foot on the ropes — but the referee wasn't aware at the time and Stasiak's victory stood.

DeNucci had several opportunities to regain the title but his Italian temper and hatred usually got the best of him and Domenic was either disqualified or the bouts were halted because both combatants were bleeding too badly.

Time is supposed to heal all wounds,



Both DeNucci and Stasiak eye each other carefully as they feel each other out in the opening minutes of their match, sort of the lull before the storm.



Stan (The Man) Stasiak is all business as he heads towards the ring ready to do battle with his arch-rival Domenic DeNucci.

but not in DeNucci's case as he had a score to settle with Stasiak, not only because of Stan's tainted title triumph but also because of all the blood Domenic had spilled in his scraps with Stasiak.

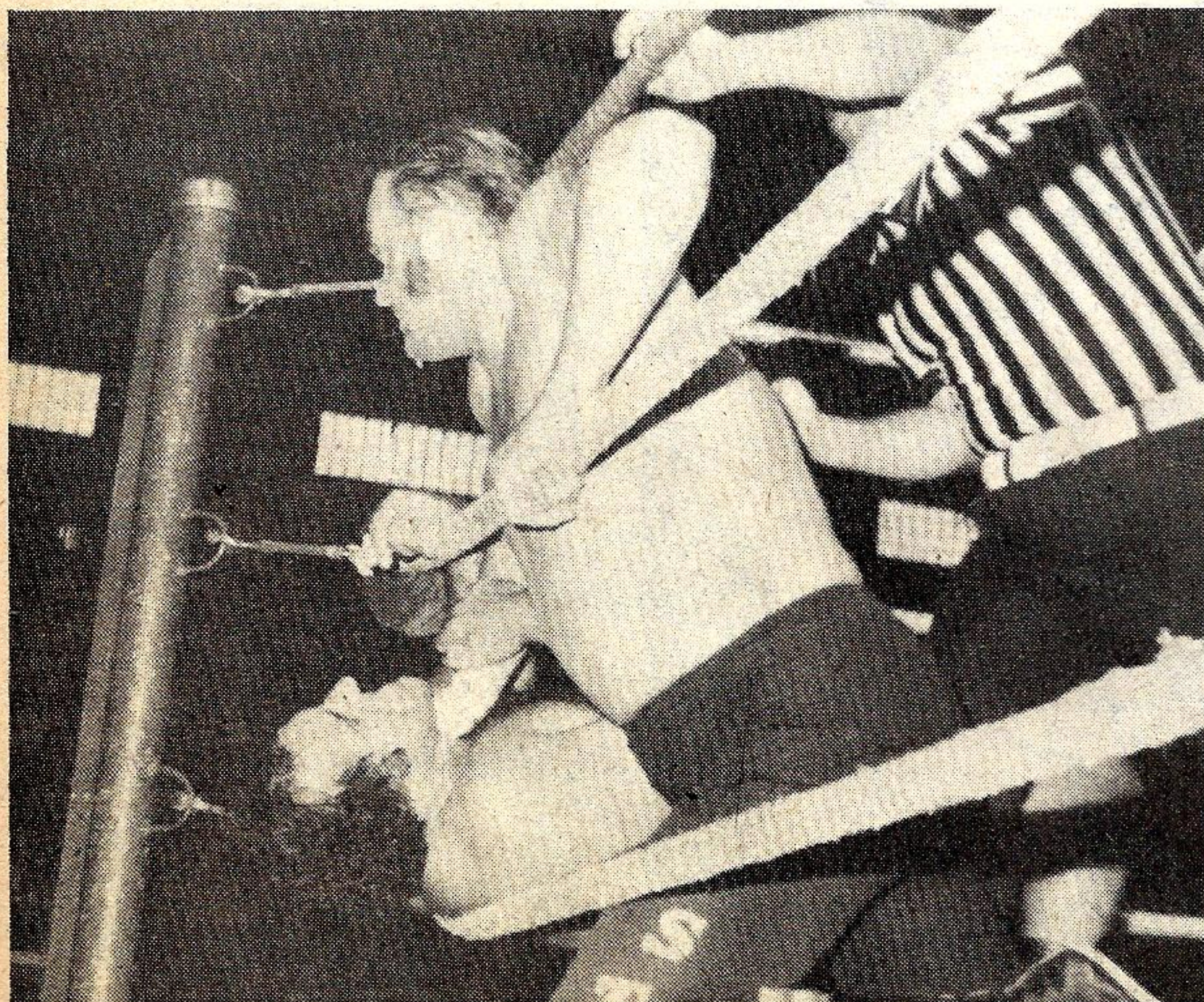
The feud wasn't rekindled until Stasiak returned to the World Wide Wrestling Federation, but DeNucci was unable to get his revenge immediately as both Stasiak and his manager Grand Wizard were reluctant to face DeNucci until they were good and ready.

Because they kept him waiting for a match, DeNucci's hatred for Stasiak continued to build up until something finally had to give.

DeNucci was waiting his turn in the ring when Stasiak, after already being declared the victor, continued to assault his helpless opponent. Domenic could stand no more as the referee was unable to stop Stasiak and he vaulted into the ring and proceeded to toss Stan out.

"In wrestling, if you beat your man, you beat him and stop. After you have your hand raised in victory and then you leave. But not Stasiak, he has to hurt his opponents.

"He was getting away with it this

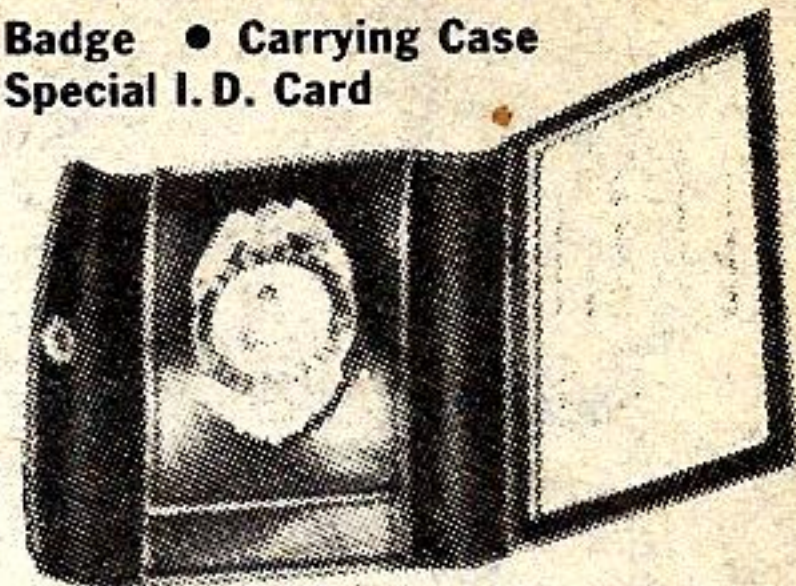


Stasiak has turned the tables here as he traps DeNucci against the ropes and attempts to choke his Italian rival.

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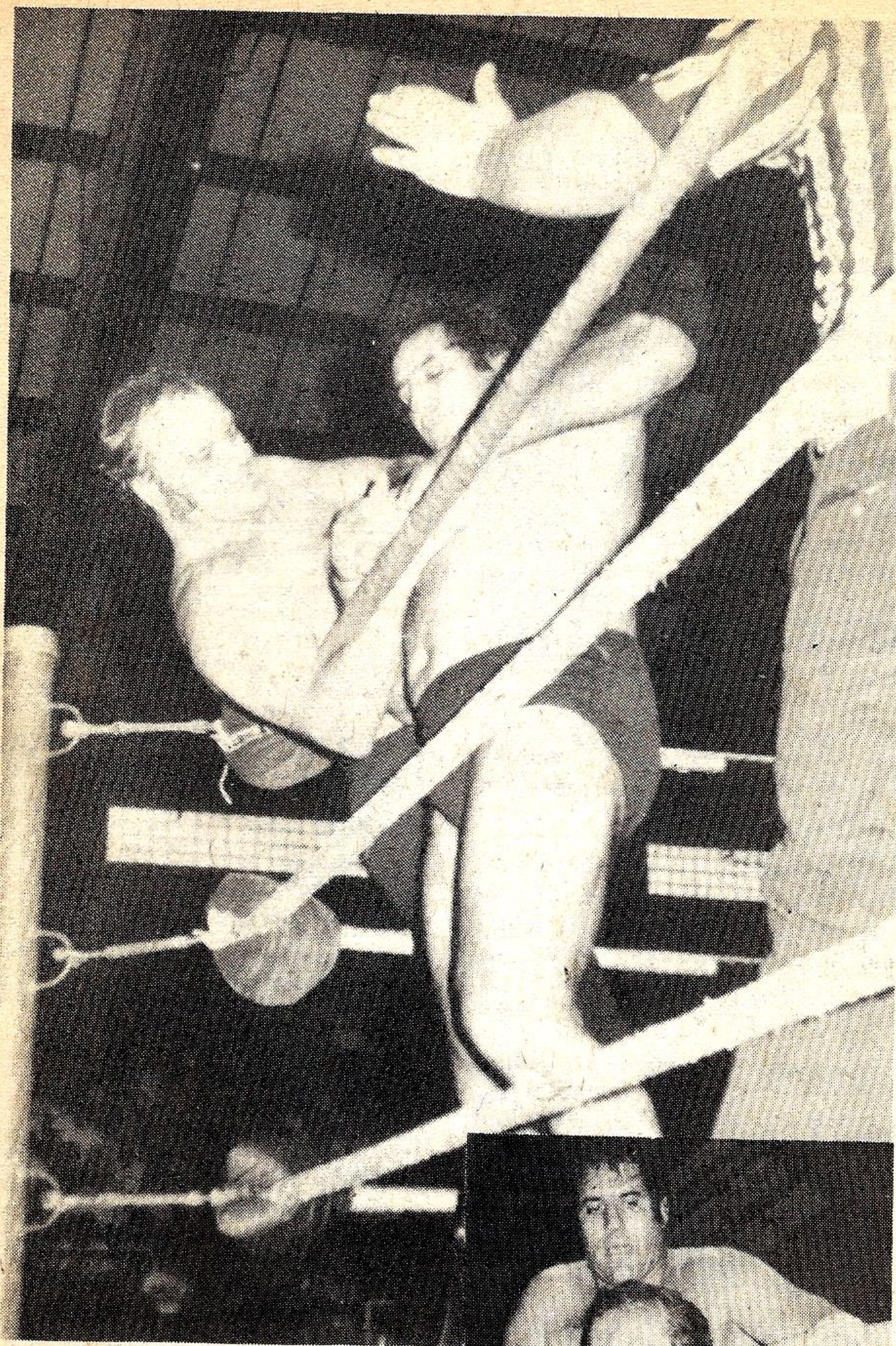
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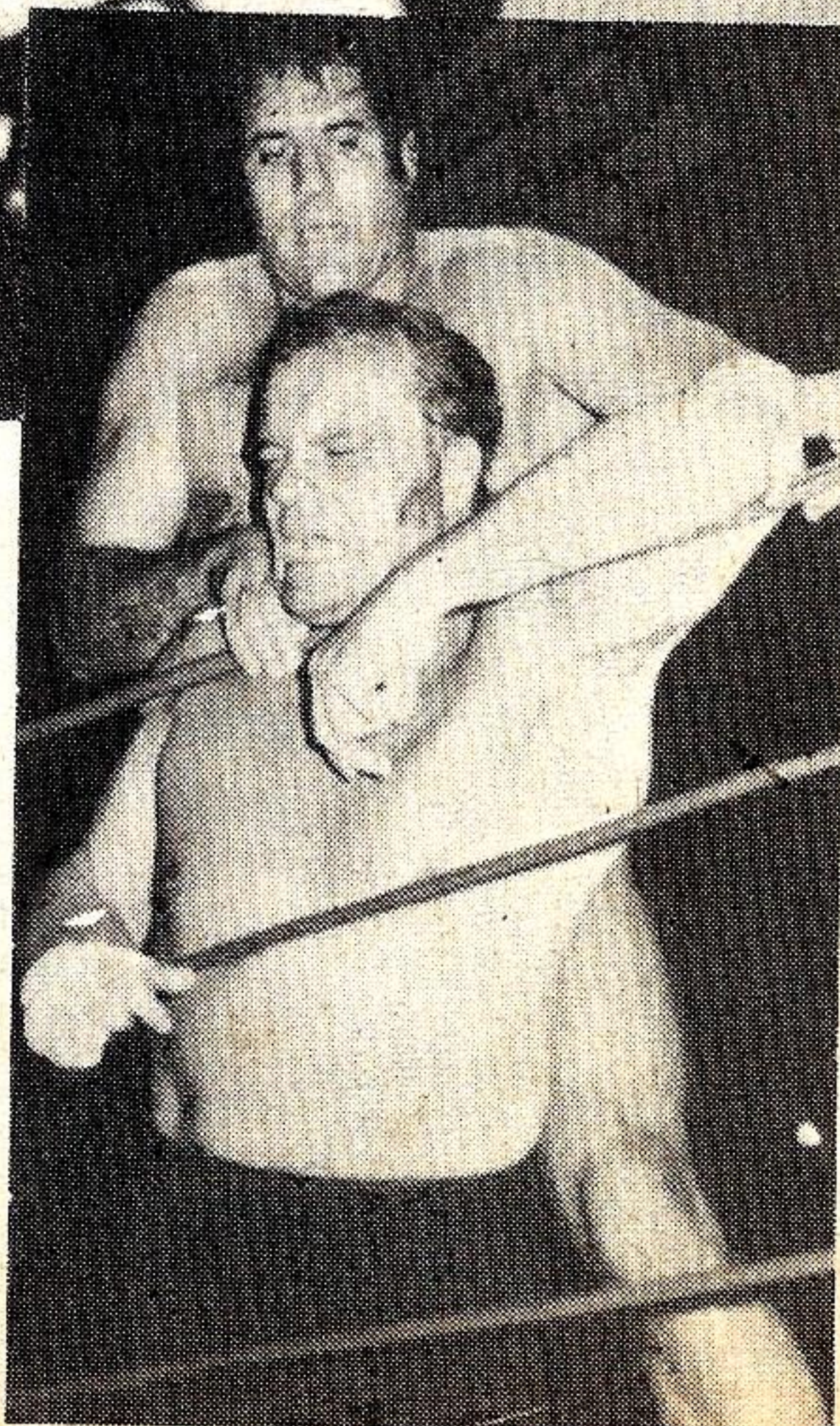
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DeNucci attempts to remove the tape from the right fist of Stasiak which helps make his feared 'Heart Punch' so potent.

DeNucci has Stasiak at his mercy here as he uses the ring rope to make breathing a little more difficult for Stan. As Stasiak sinks to his knees in the photo on the right, DeNucci switches to a painful nerve hold in an effort to make Stan concede.



time because his opponent was a young, inexperienced wrestler, but he won't get away with that against me.

"Stasiak, I'm going to beat the hell out of you. I don't care what I have to do, but I'm going to destroy you. If I have to break some of the rules then I'll do it.

"I'm going to make you pay for what you did to that kid. I'm going to put the boots to you. I'll hit you with a chair, table or anything I can get my hands on. Don't give me a chance, as I won't give you any," vowed DeNucci.

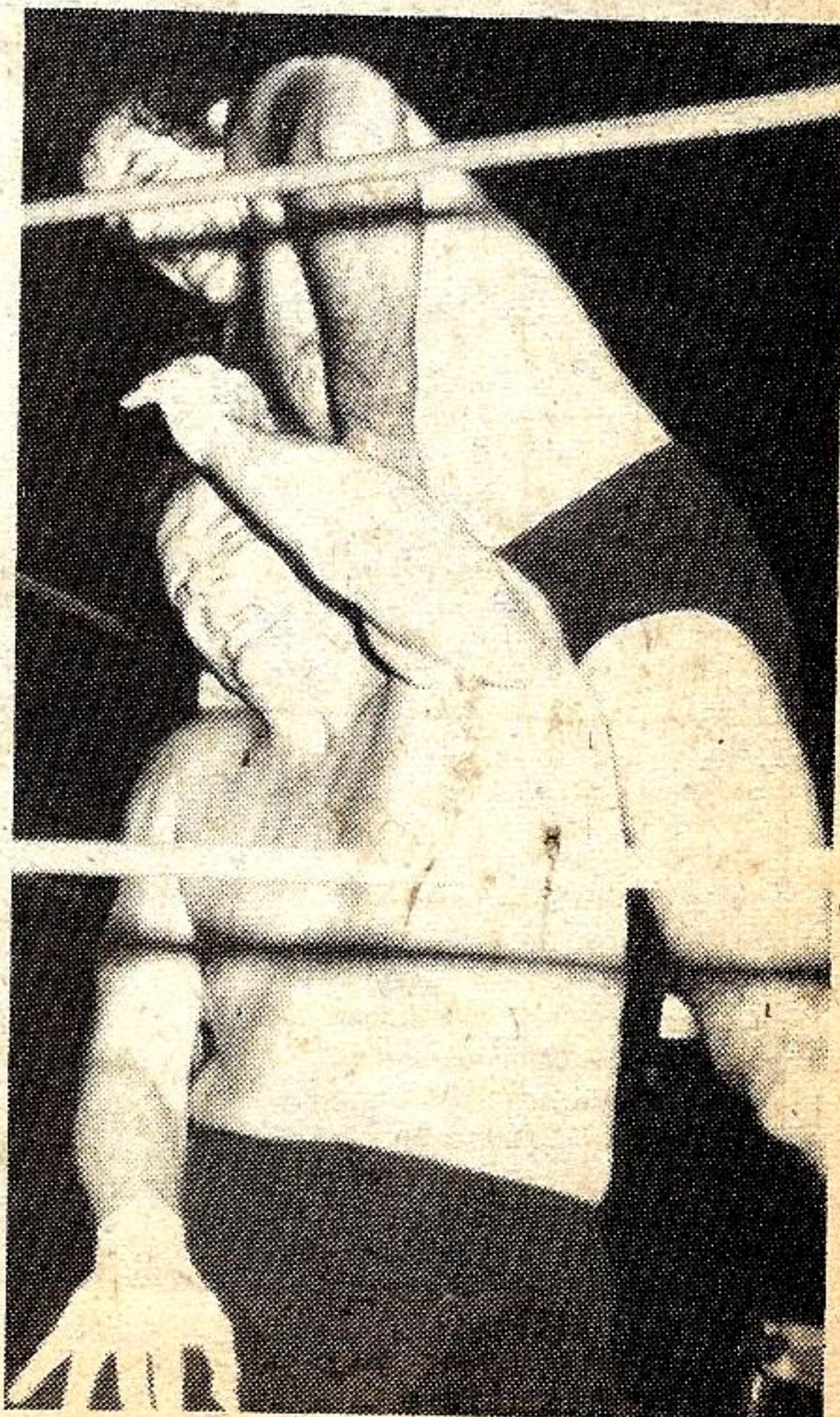
Stasiak didn't seem concerned about meeting a fired-up DeNucci. "He's all talk and no action. My heart punch will take care of everything. He had no right interfering in my match and he will pay for this."

The long-awaited bout finally took place with DeNucci getting off to a fast start and battering Stasiak from pillar to post in the early going.

However, Stasiak turned the tide with a low blow which sent DeNucci sprawling. Stan then went to work on his arch-rival, stomping Domenic until he had to roll out of the ring to escape Stasiak's wrath.

Stasiak left the ring, not wanting to give his foe an opportunity to recover, and proceeded to slam De Nucci's head against the ringpost.

Only DeNucci's amazing recuperative powers enabled him to survive



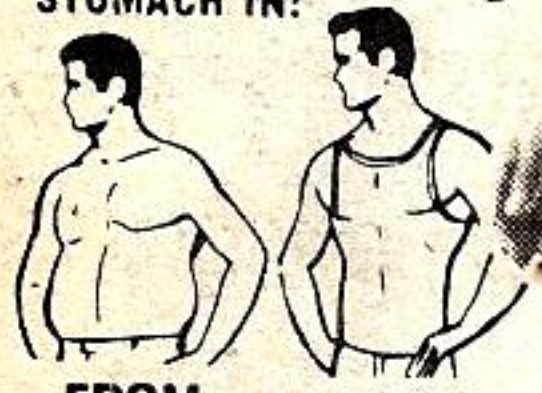
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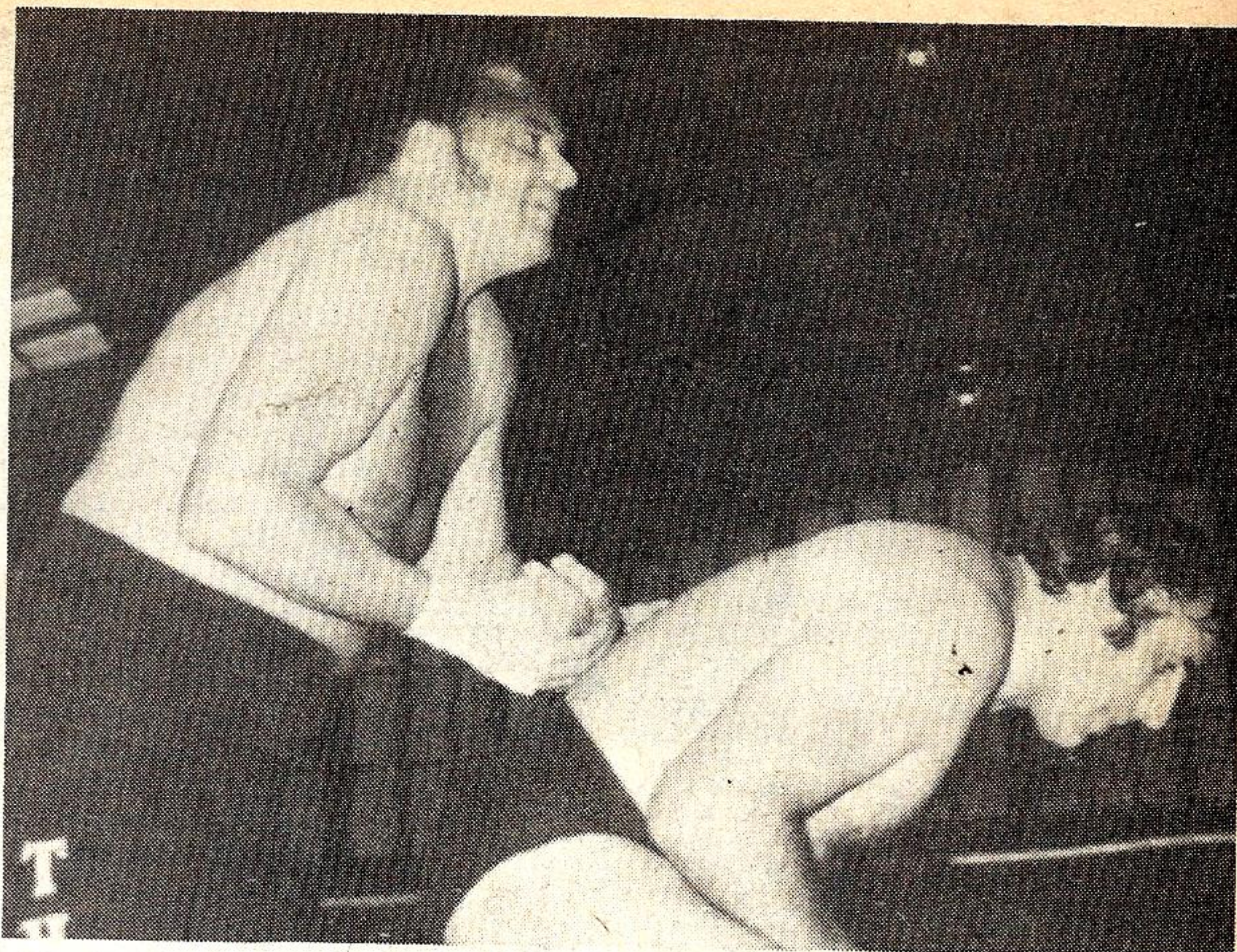
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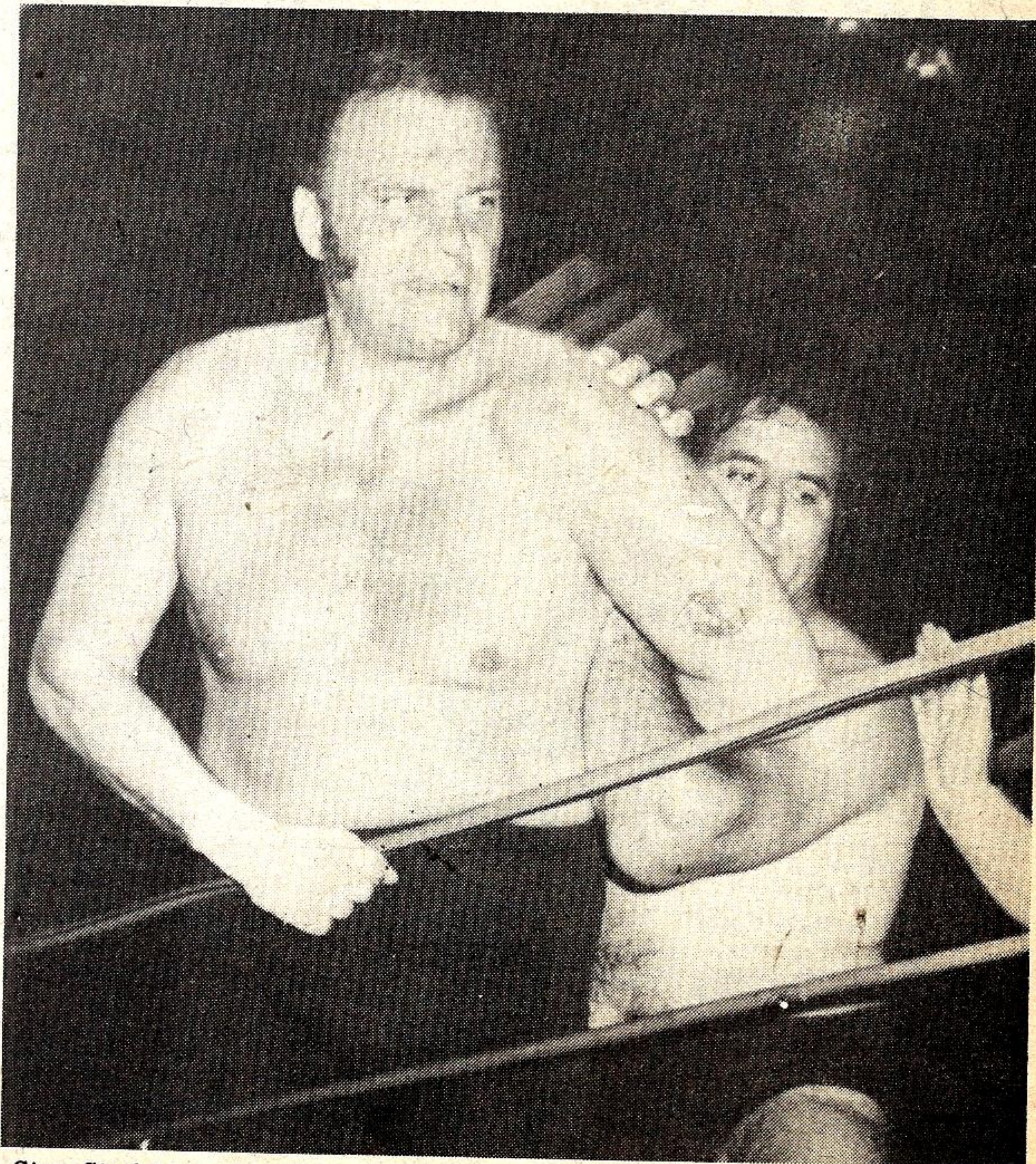
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The roles are reversed here; Stasiak has the upper hand, or should we say arm, as he twists DeNucci's arm behind his back.



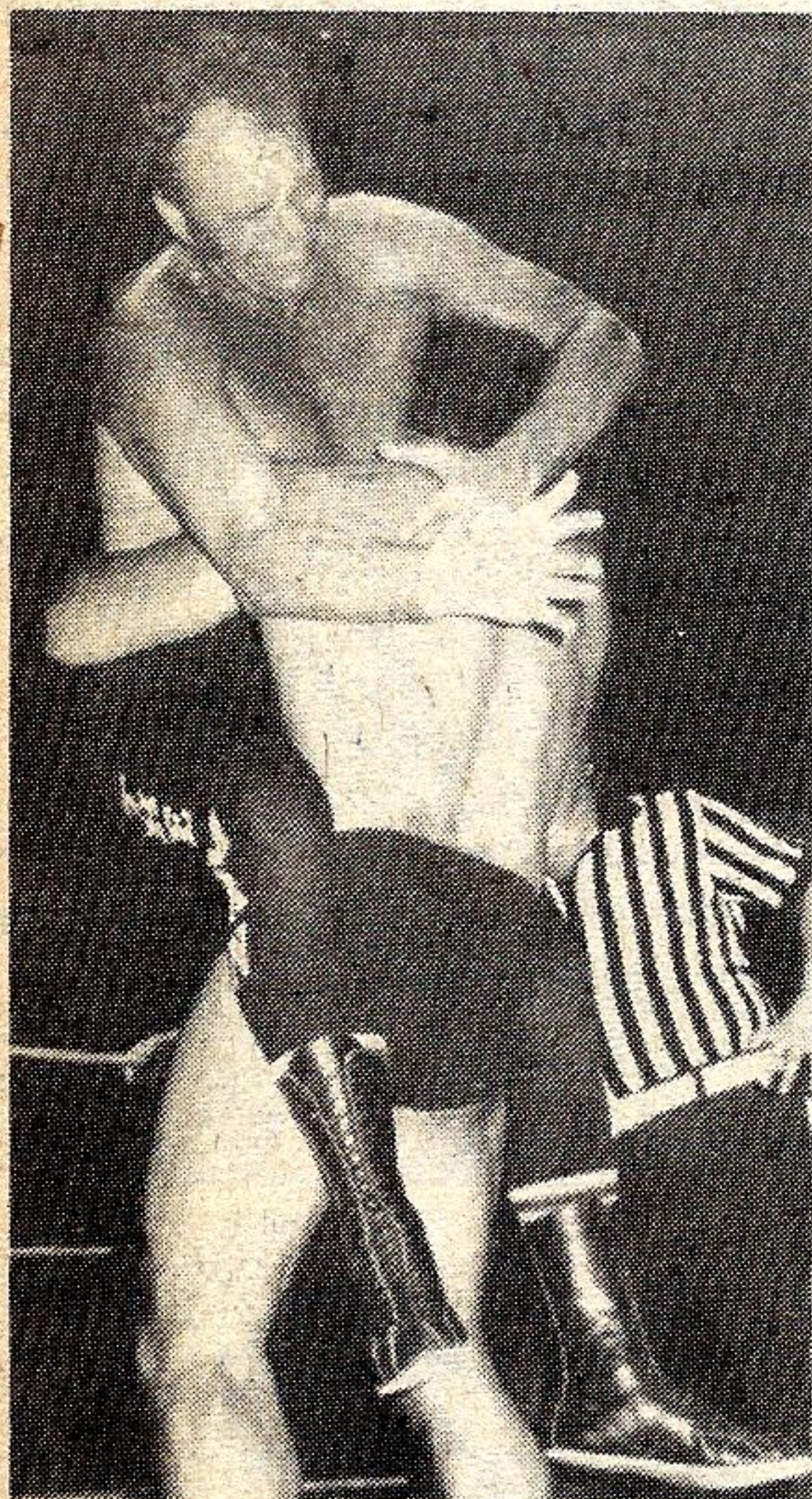
Stan Stasiak reaches the safety of the ropes in order to get Domenic DeNucci to break his arm hold.

this attack and when the combatants returned to the ring Domenic amazingly regained the upper hand.

DeNucci hit Stasiak with everything but the kitchen sink and appeared to have Stan at his mercy when he caught 'The Man' in his vaunted bear hug. However, Stasiak was able to break free by catching DeNucci between the eyes with a punch.

The two then stood toe-to-toe, taking turns landing their best punches with neither showing any signs of weakening.

Suddenly, the bell rang, although it barely could be heard over the



Stasiak appears to be in dire straits here as DeNucci has him trapped in his vaunted bear hug. However, Stasiak was able to escape by punching Domenic between the eyes.

screams of the fans, as the 30-minute time limit had been reached. However, DeNucci and Stasiak continued to slug away after the bell until the referee stepped in and ordered a cease-fire.

This chapter in the ever-smoldering feud between Domenic DeNucci and Stan Stasiak was inconclusive but wrestling fans can rest assured there will be more bitter and bloody bouts between these two ring rivals before the feud comes to an end.

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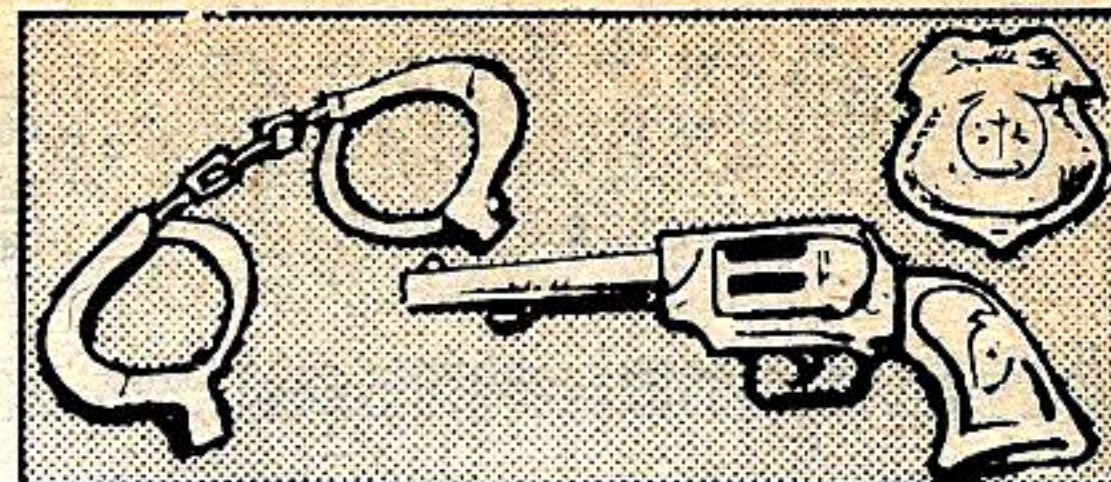
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Wrestling MAILBAG

MONTHLY'S

FAVORS FEMALES

Dear Sir:

I have been a wrestling fan for 15 years, going to the matches for the first time when I was 14.

Anne Casey wrestled blonde Brenda Scott that night and needless to say I was sold on girl wrestling. Recently, I saw Donna Christenello wrestle gorgeous Jan Sheridan. The sultry brunette was disqualified after 42 minutes for unnecessary roughness when she continued to work Jan over rather than pin the badly beaten blonde.

In between these two bouts mentioned, I've seen a countless number of girls go between the ropes and they always serve up plenty of action.

My association with your magazines, Wrestling Monthly, Wrestling Revue and Big Book of Wrestling dates back to when I became a fan. These are the best of all mat publications.

Mr. Gene Gordon is one of the best photographers and his coverage of the Leilani Kai — Susan Green affair was sensational. It would be nice if such girl wrestling wars became a monthly feature in all your issues.

I have long felt that the girls do not get the acclaim they should when it is obvious that these super athletes are the most viewed members of their sex in the world of sports. It is always golfers and tennis stars who appear on the sports pages, why not lady wrestlers?

There are, of course, many people who do not see any sport in watching lovely specimens of womanhood prove themselves upon a dirty, bled and spat on wrestling mat. The girls don't seem to mind the conditions under which they toil, nor do the several million fans who enjoy the rough, rowdy style of the girl grapplers.

It is a matter of pride that draws a girl into wrestling as most girls are afraid to display their physical conditioning in a sweaty painful profession.

As a wrestling fan, I have the greatest respect and admiration for each and every lady wrestler who



Grappling girls like Daisy Mae and Brenda Starr, who is headed for a fall here, are favorites of long-time reader Richard Carey.

devotes her energy and part of her life to the excitement of the mat profession. The punishment takes its toll and all too often a girl wrestler tires of getting her hair pulled or having her belly kicked to the point where food has no appeal because of the pain and just ups and disappears to an easier life.

Gone but not forgotten I'm sure by many fans like myself. They are fantastic athletes, real students of the game and true crusaders for their sex.

Again I would like to say how much I enjoy your magazines, wrestling, and best of all, girls. I'll be at ringside whistling the next time the lady wrestlers hit my area as these girls are the real 'Miss Americas'.

I recently saw beautiful Princess Little Heart, a dark-haired Apache Indian girl wrestler, and she is good. Could you please do a story on her in a forthcoming issue, also Vivian St. John, who I feel could be the next ladies' champion.

Thank you for your time,

Richard Carey,
Lowell, Mass.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you for your kind words about our wrestling publications, and I trust one of our many correspondents will submit stories on Princess Little Heart and Vivian St. John soon so that we can feature either or both of these grappling girls in a future issue of Wrestling Monthly or its sister publications, Big Book of Wrestling and Wrestling Revue.)

FAN CLUB FOR ALBANO

Dear Sir:

My name is Steve Duess and I am the president of the Captain Lou Albano Fan Club. The vice-president is Mike Lieverman.

We have obtained permission from Lou to start this club and have enclosed a signed authorization statement from Lou Albano.

We plan to put out four bulletins a year with pictures of the Captain and many of his wrestlers that he has in the area at the time, interviews, stories and much more.

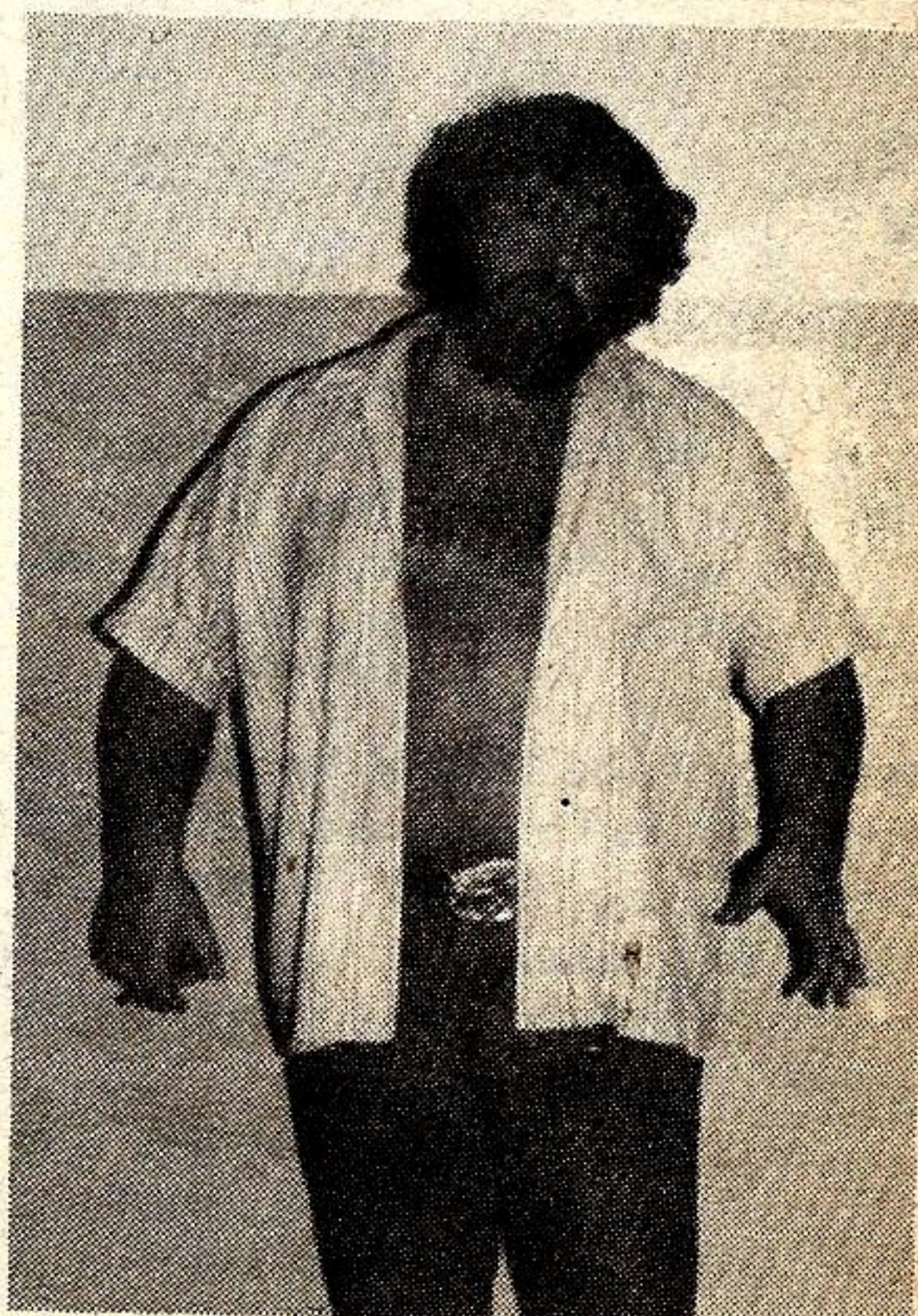
Dues for the club will be \$6 a year. Our mailing address will be:
Captain Lou Albano Fan Club
P.O. Box 1770

Bloomfield, New Jersey, 07003

Any help you can give us will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Steve Duess

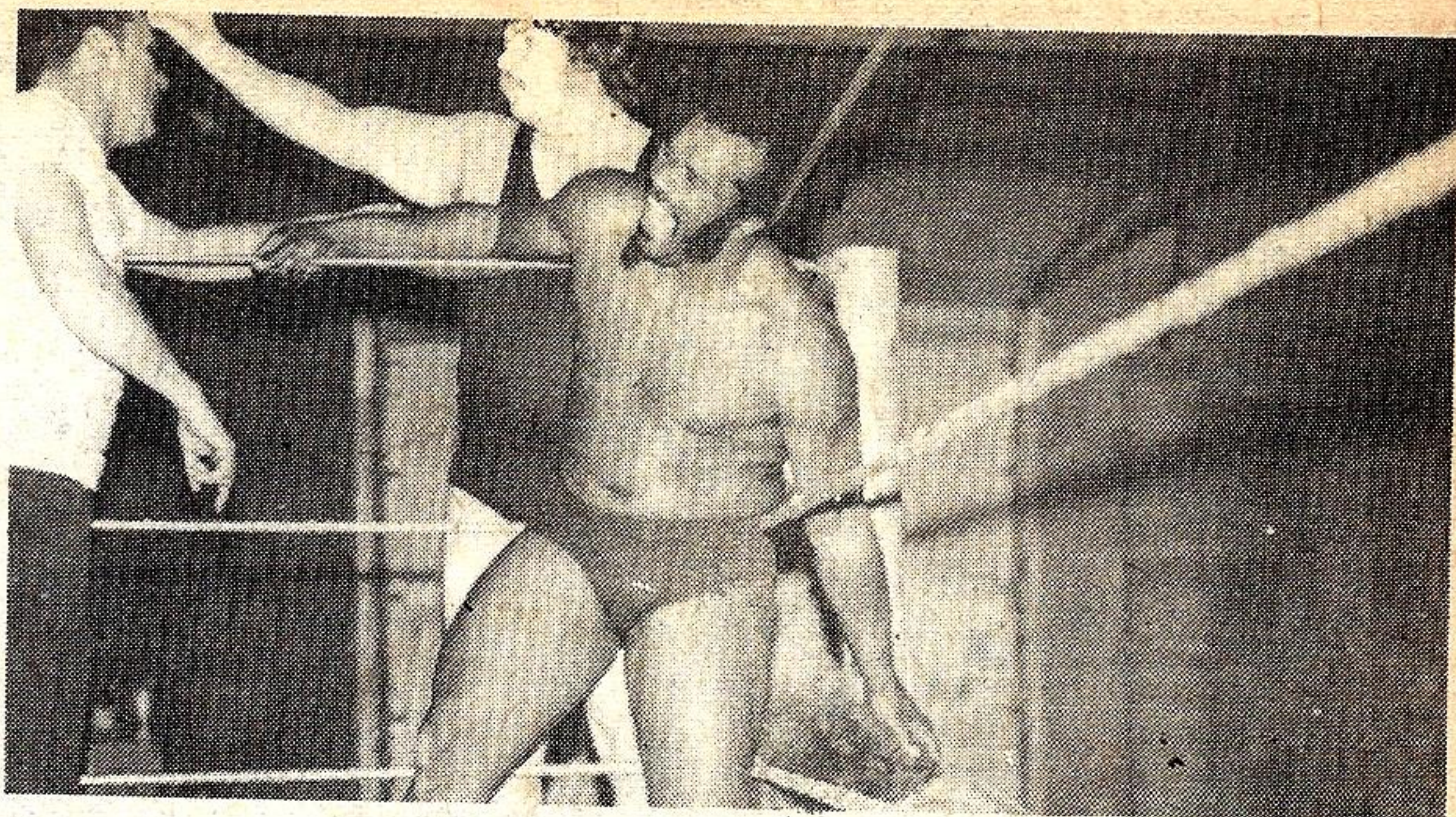
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Some wrestling fans might wonder who would want to start a fan club for the devious Captain Lou Albano but one has been formed.

THE MALDEN MAT SCENE

Photos by GEORGE HILL

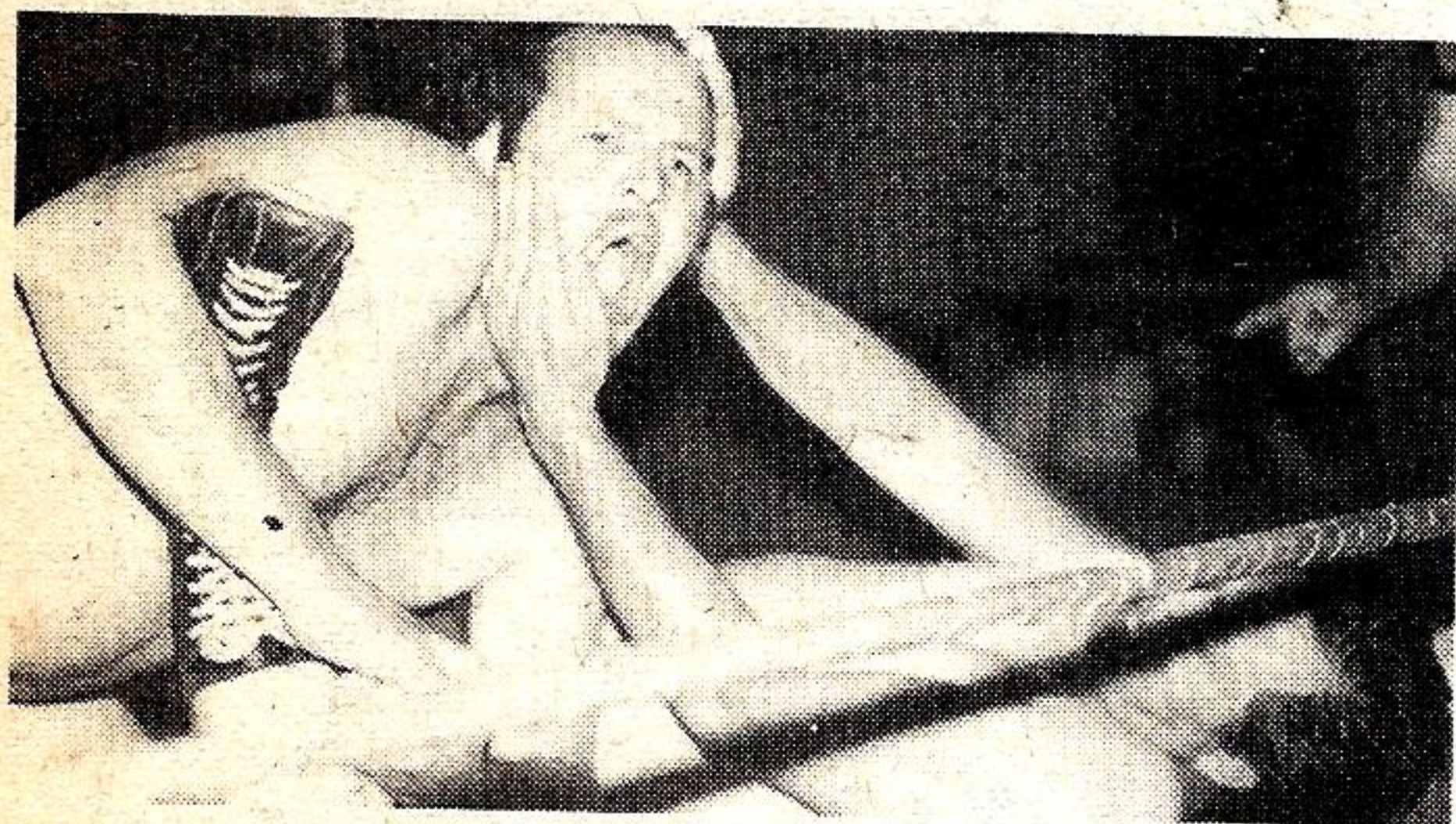


↑ Bruiser McManus distracts the referee while his tag-team partner Rhode Island Red takes a bite out of the back of Lawman Pullins' leg.

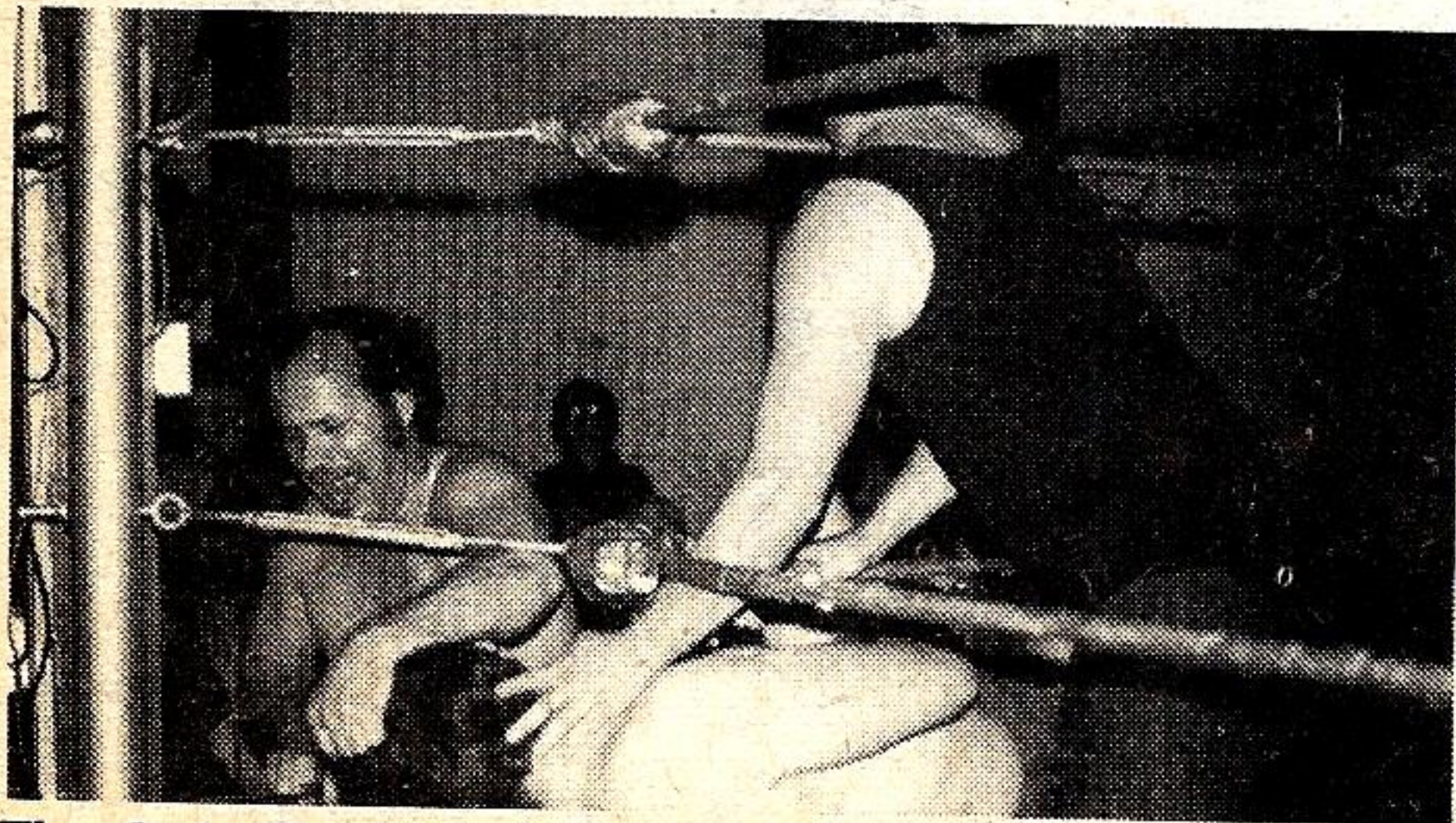


◀ The man responsible for the success of professional wrestling in Malden, Missouri, is promoter Henry Rodgers (left), shown here with referee Roy Hilton and ticket manager Juanita Williams.

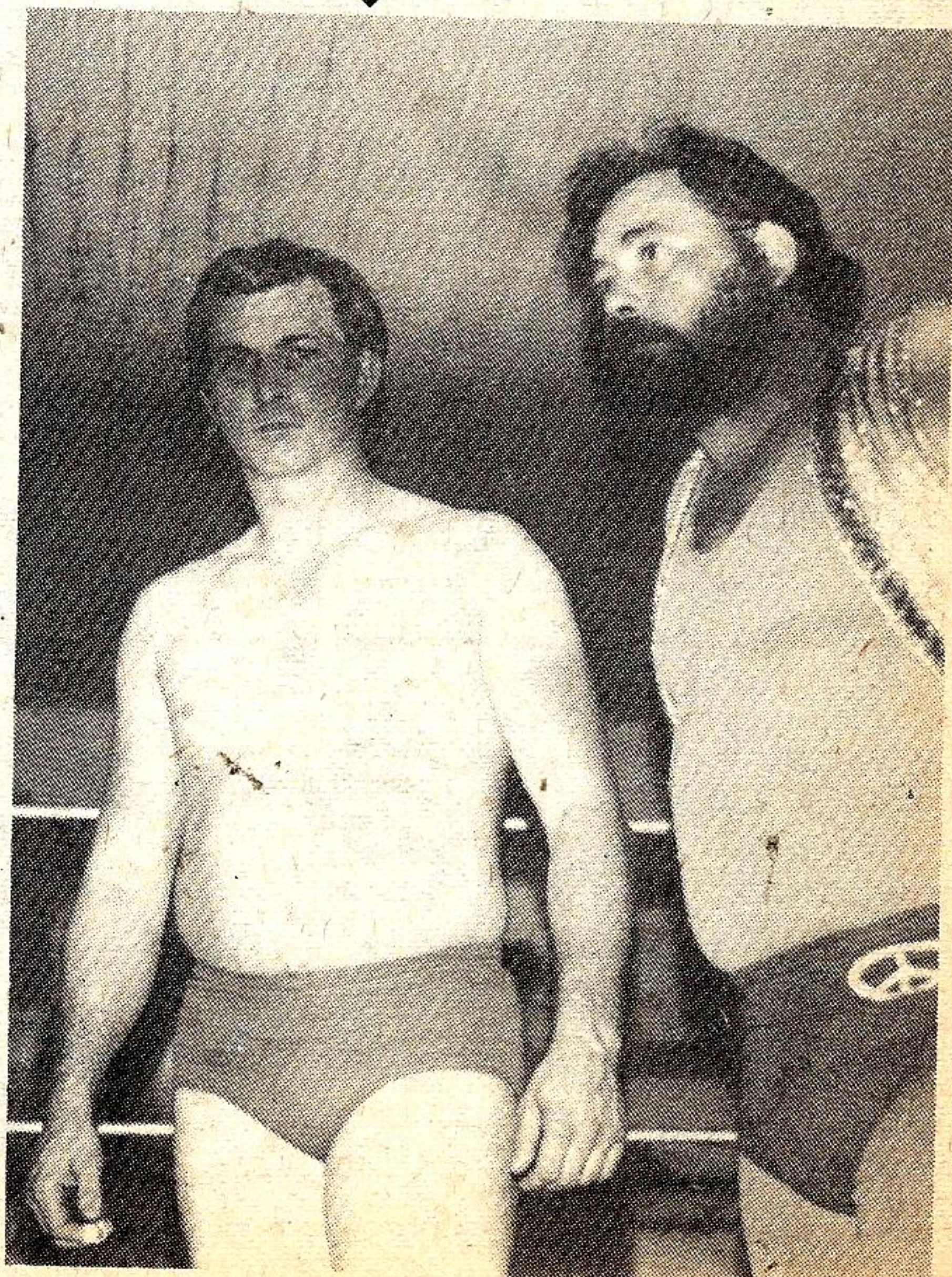
↓ A tag-team combination which is the favorite of fans in Malden is the duo of Bobby Guy and Jake Dalton.



Tuffy Taylor appears to be saying 'Aaaaahh' as Bobby Guy twists his head.



The dastardly duo of the masked Black Inferno and Tuffy Taylor are double-teaming Bobby Guy in this photo.



Fighting Females



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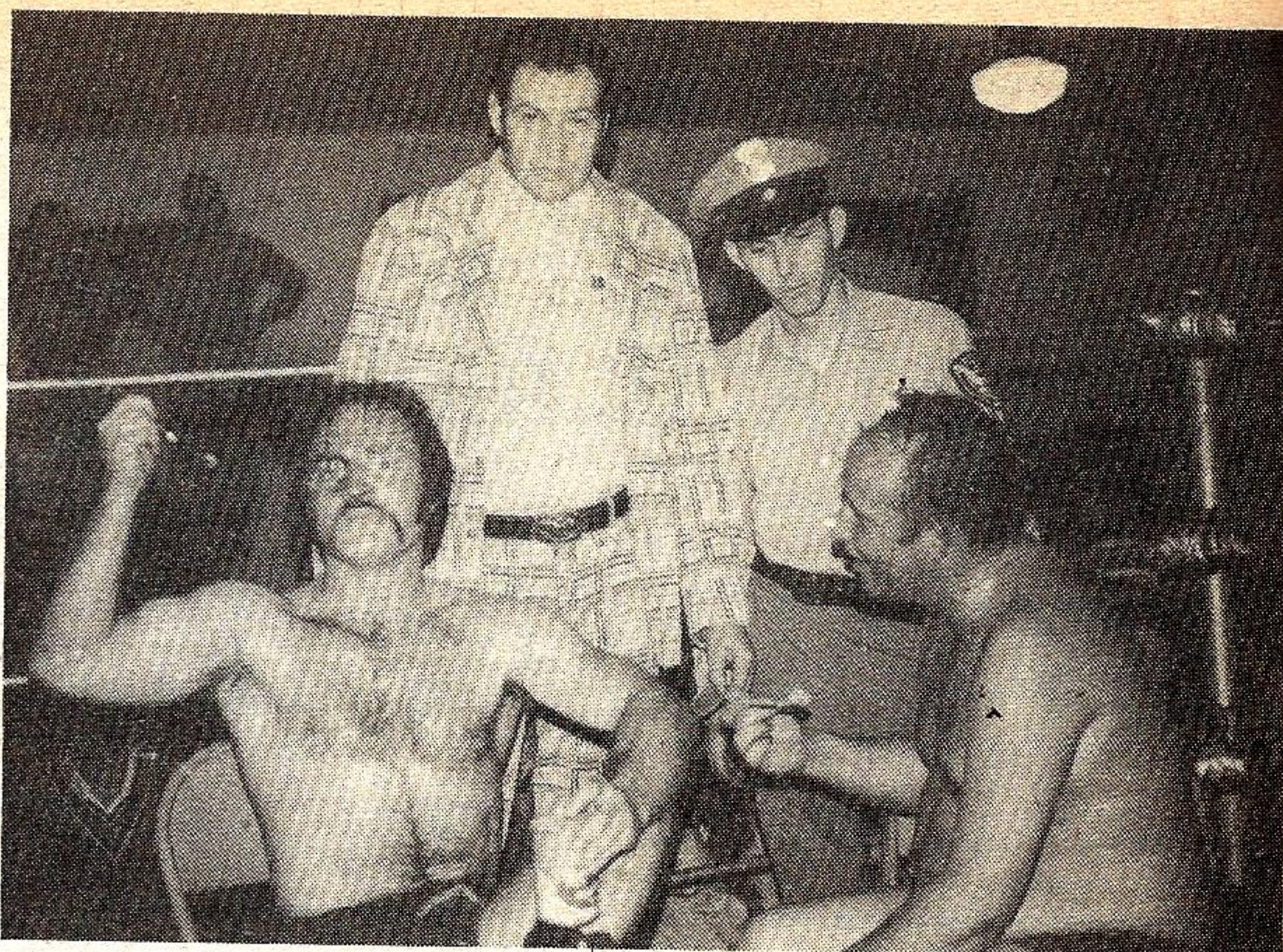
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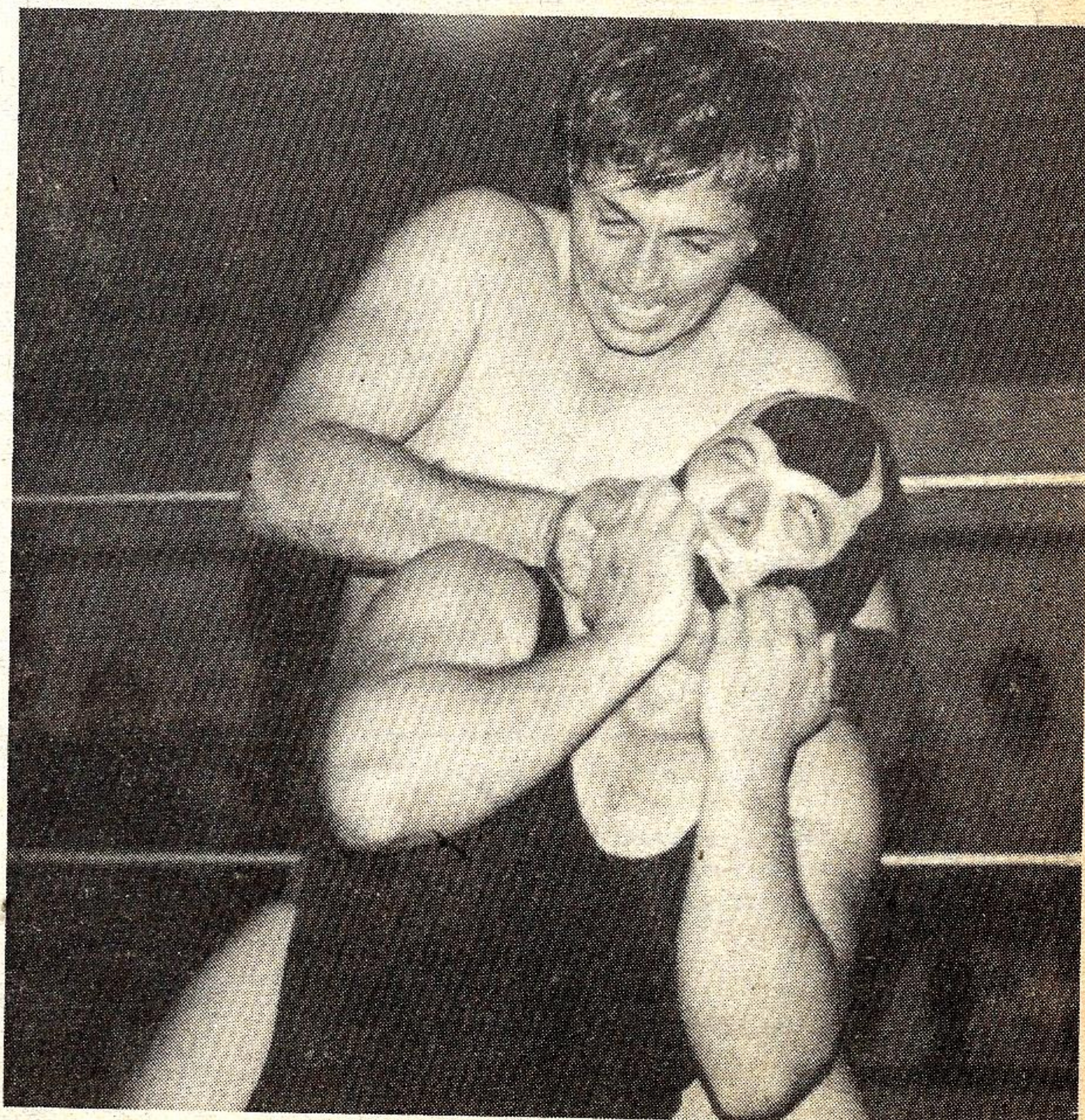
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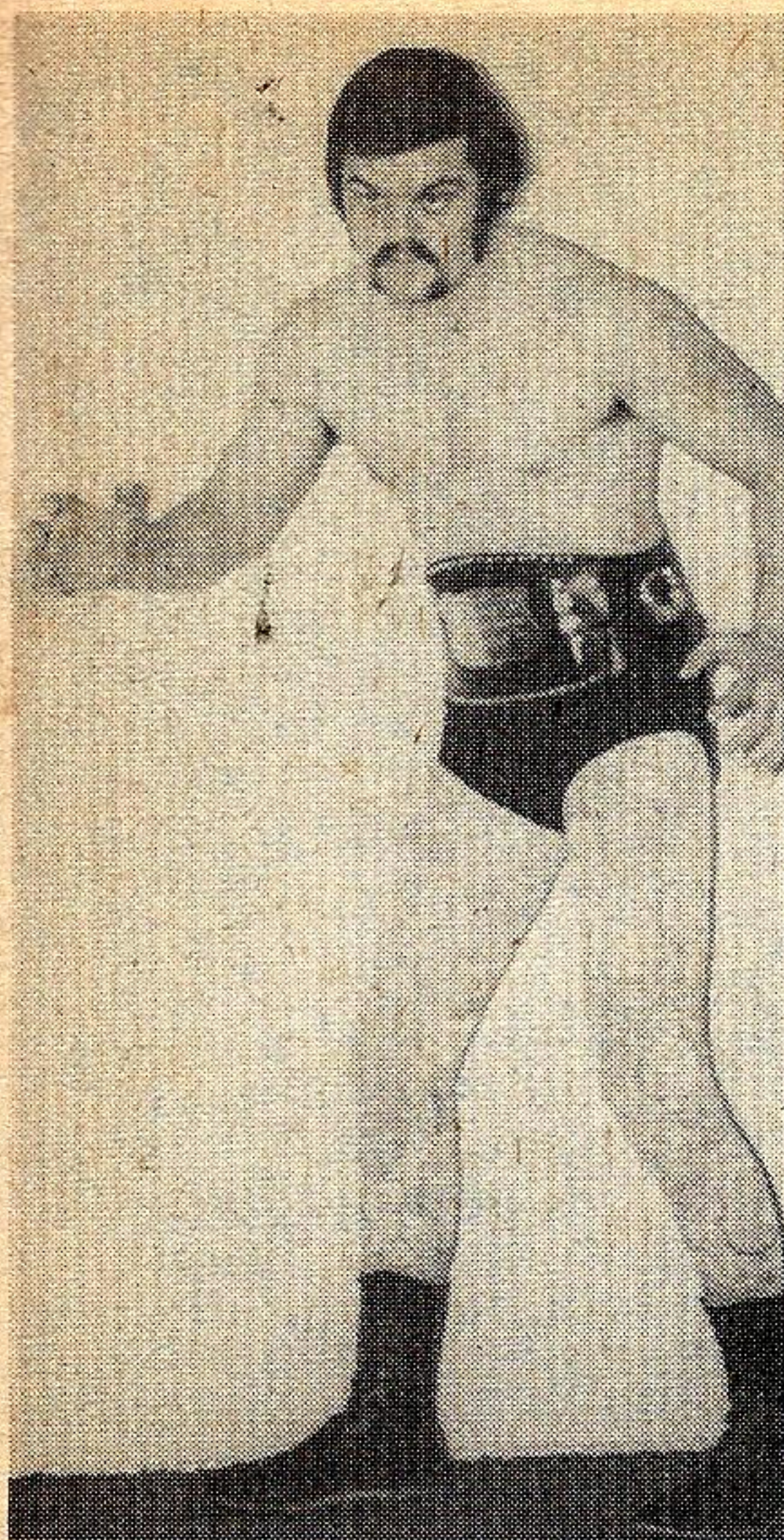
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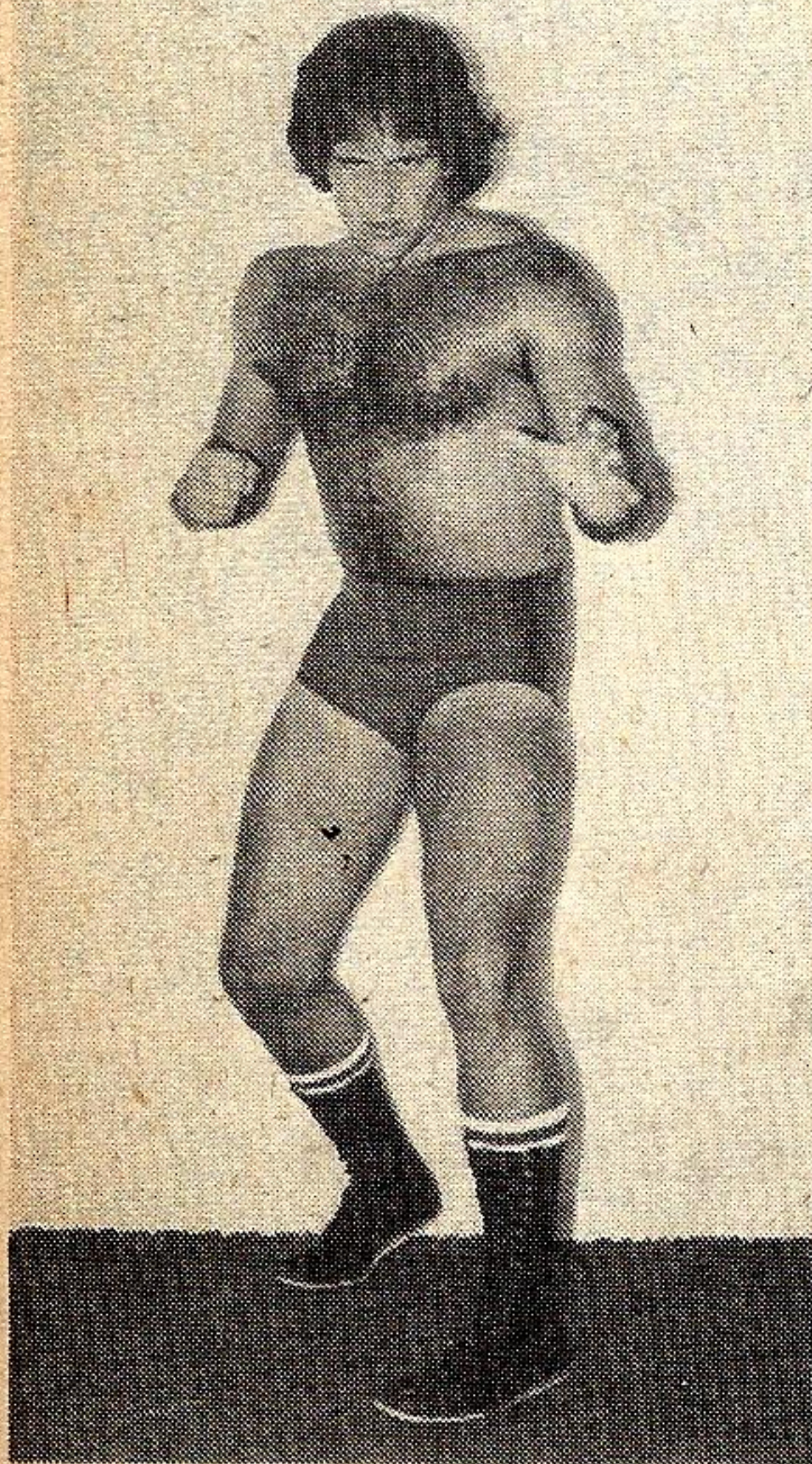
Wrestling fans in Malden have been treated to many unusual attractions but few were more entertaining than the Dog Food match in which the losing tag-team combination Harold Murray and Jack Kent were forced to eat a can of dog food while promoter Henry Rodgers and a security guard made certain they lived up to their agreement.



Bobby Guy is doing his best to unmask the mysterious Black Inferno, but interference from the masked man's tag-team partner Tuffy Taylor prevented Guy from revealing the masked man's identity.



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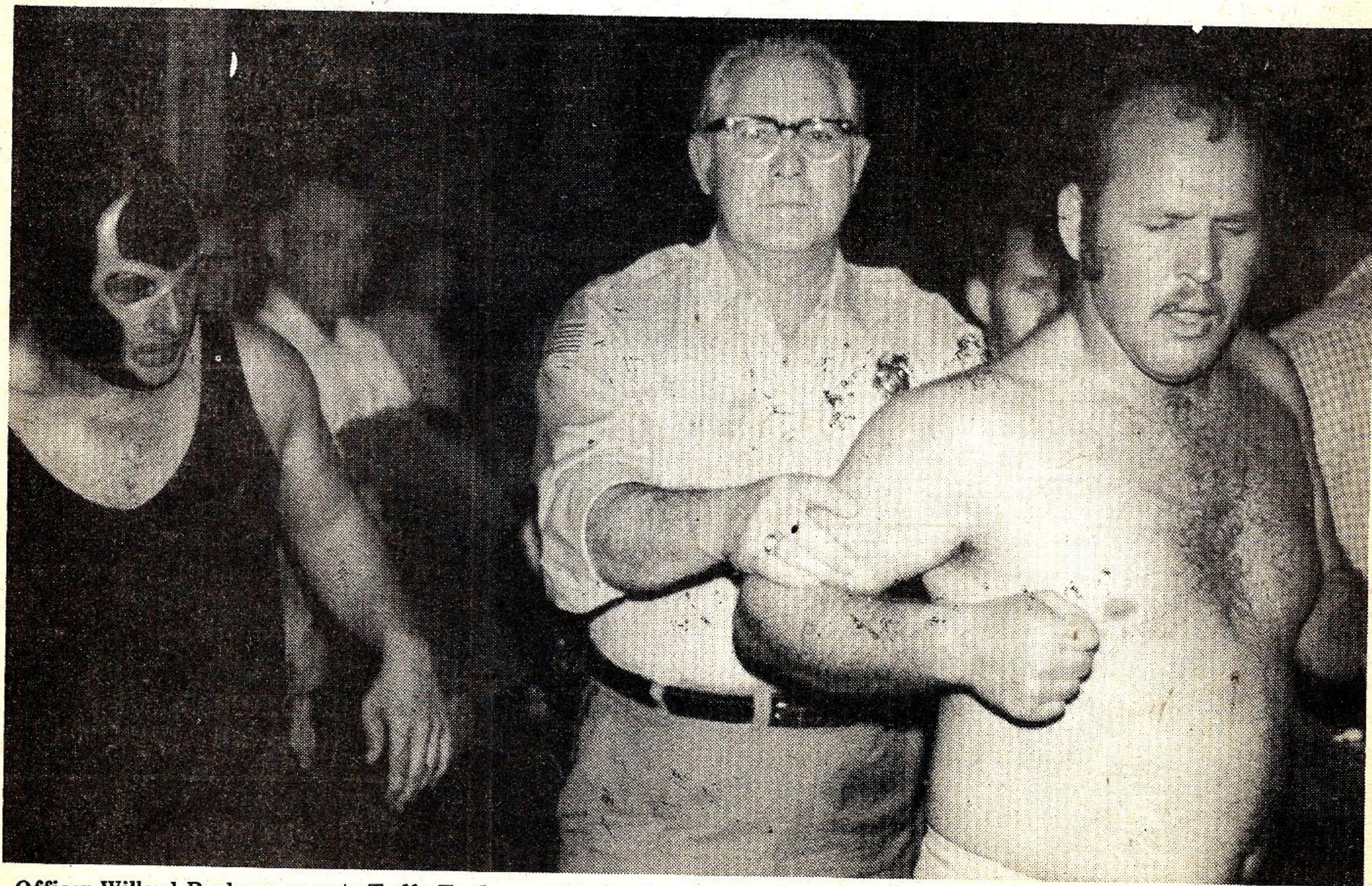
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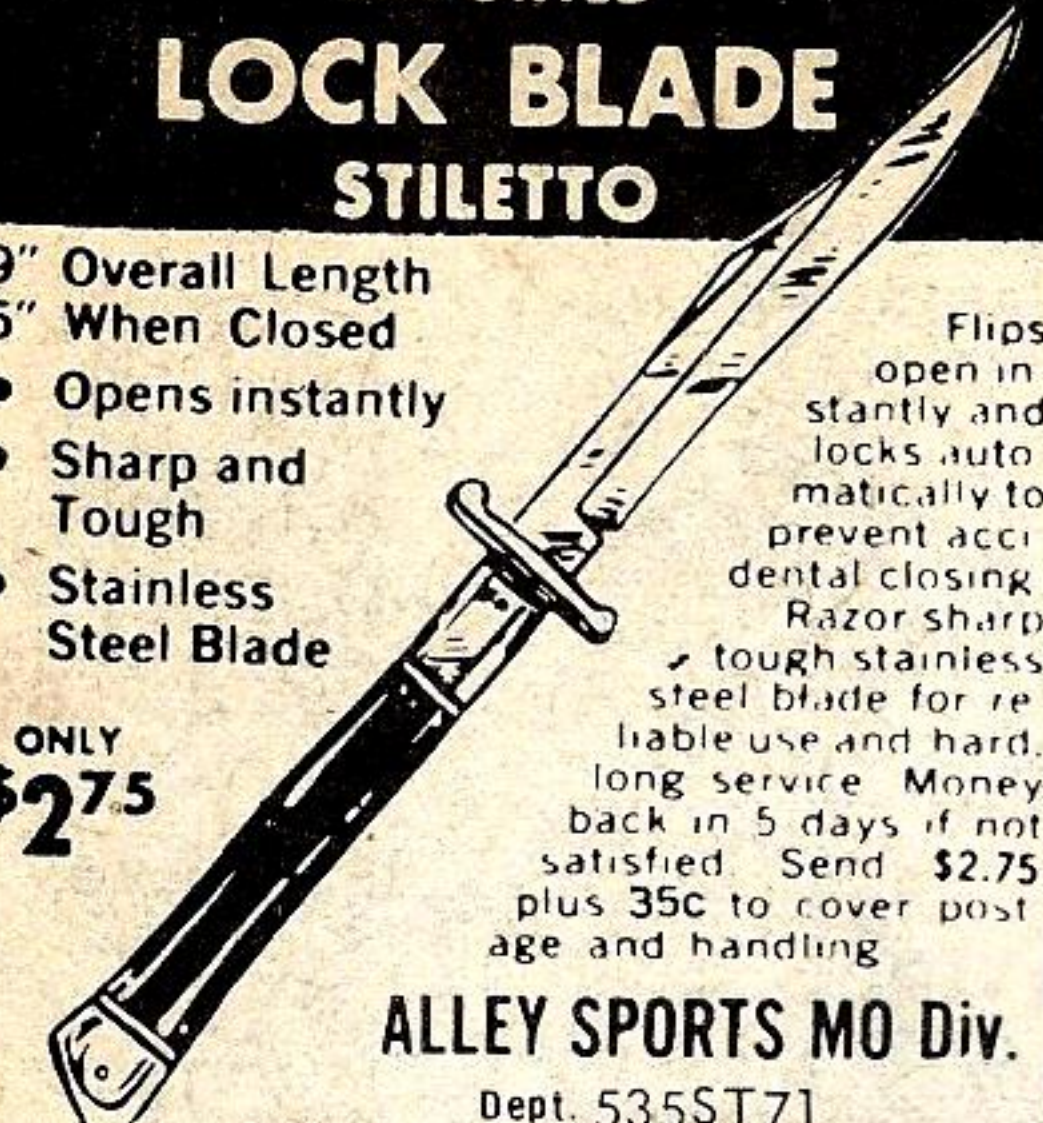


Jake Dalton staggers the masked meanie Black Inferno with a solid right to the head.



Officer Willard Rodgers escorts Tuffy Taylor and his tag-team partner Black Inferno back to the dressing room after their rock-'em, sock-'em bout with Bobby Guy and Jake Dalton.

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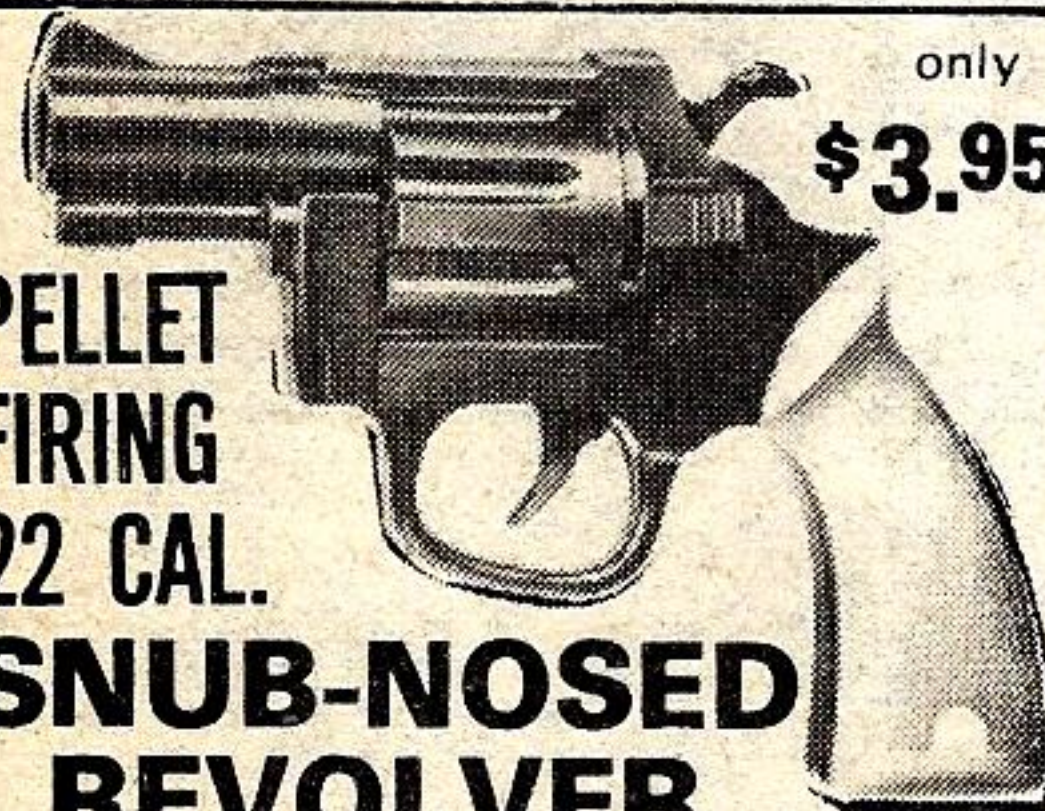
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WRESTLING MONTHLY WORDSEARCH

By **BARBARA REEVES**

O	N	I	T	R	A	M	M	A	S	O	N	U	R	B
M	I	L	M	A	S	C	A	R	A	S	G	A	T	E
R	I	K	S	T	U	P	N	A	V	I	L	T	L	T
S	T	G	O	O	S	N	D	H	Y	I	N	K	H	Z
T	E	H	B	A	D	M	T	D	Z	A	N	E	V	I
T	R	E	R	E	S	E	N	A	I	I	M	I	I	L
T	R	S	P	R	R	A	R	G	W	I	J	S	C	B
N	Y	H	T	D	C	B	E	K	G	I	K	R	T	O
A	F	I	N	Y	O	H	C	H	F	O	A	O	O	W
I	U	A	A	B	T	O	T	R	O	Y	G	O	R	O
G	N	R	O	A	B	Y	M	R	S	C	P	N	R	B
E	K	B	B	K	I	S	B	T	A	O	A	K	I	G
H	O	A	G	G	T	R	E	U	O	M	R	E	V	N
T	B	I	O	I	E	V	H	R	T	O	A	I	E	O
E	N	R	Z	L	E	V	B	A	G	V	R	H	R	R
R	U	H	L	N	E	O	C	I	I	E	N	S	A	T
D	F	I	S	W	B	V	K	I	N	G	R	E	B	S
N	K	R	A	U	L	M	A	T	A	D	F	H	R	Y
A	E	R	N	I	E	L	A	D	D	O	P	T	U	A
C	H	A	V	O	G	U	E	R	R	E	R	O	N	J

This month's puzzle is a slight departure from the usual Wordsearch. Instead of providing a list of words to find with the remaining letters spelling out the name of a mystery

wrestler, if you search carefully you can find the names of 20 wrestlers among this maze of letters.
See if you can find all 20 wrestlers. Good luck.

(Solution on Page 64)

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Heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali has a look of anguish when he measures his hand against that of Andre The Giant.

WRESTLING MONTHLY PUZZLE SOLUTION

A
Andre The Giant

B
Baba The Giant
Nick Bockwinkle
Bobo Brazil
Killer Brooks

C
Ray Candy

F
Mr. Fiji
Terry Funk

G
Chavo Guerrero

I
The Mighty Igor

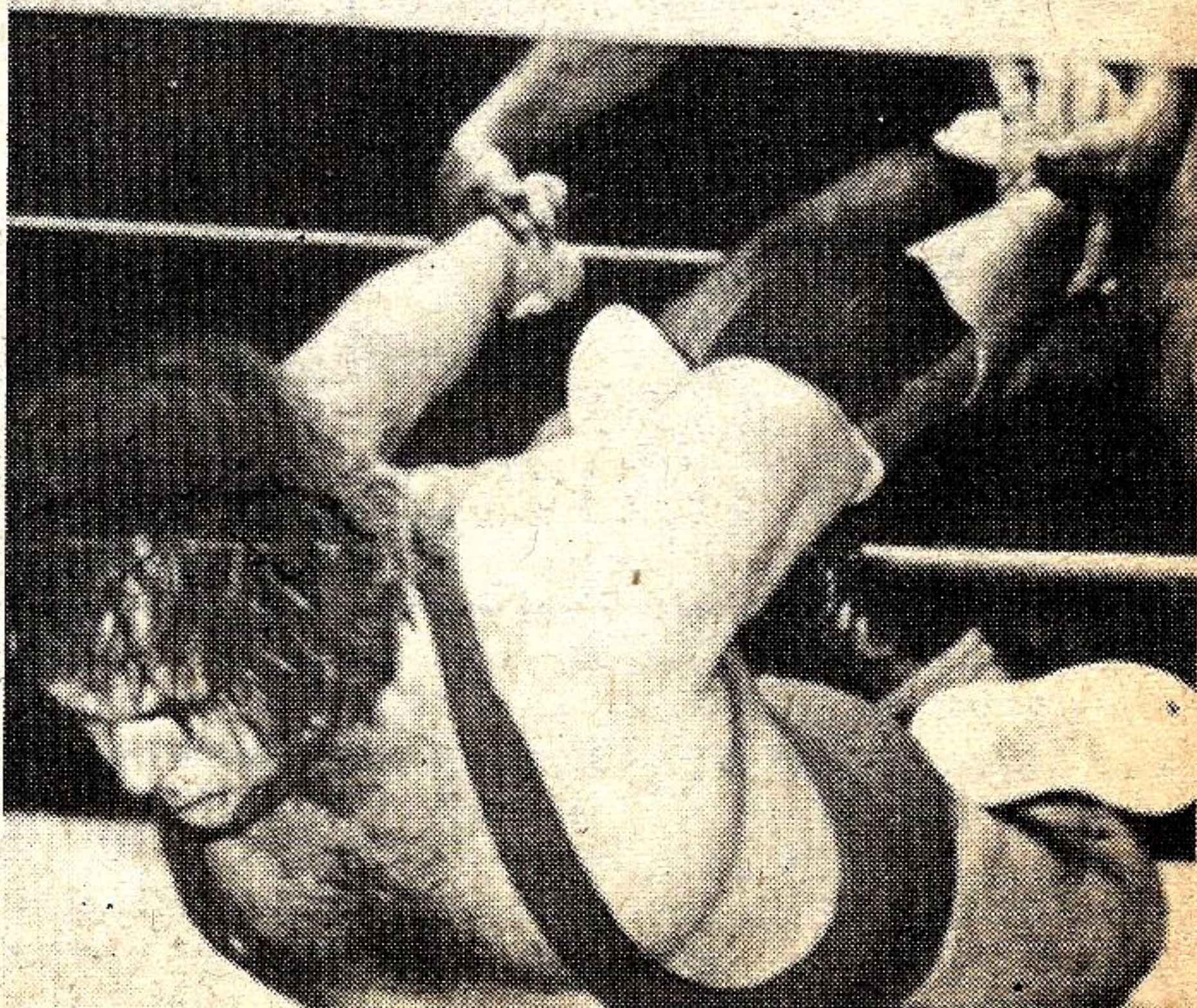
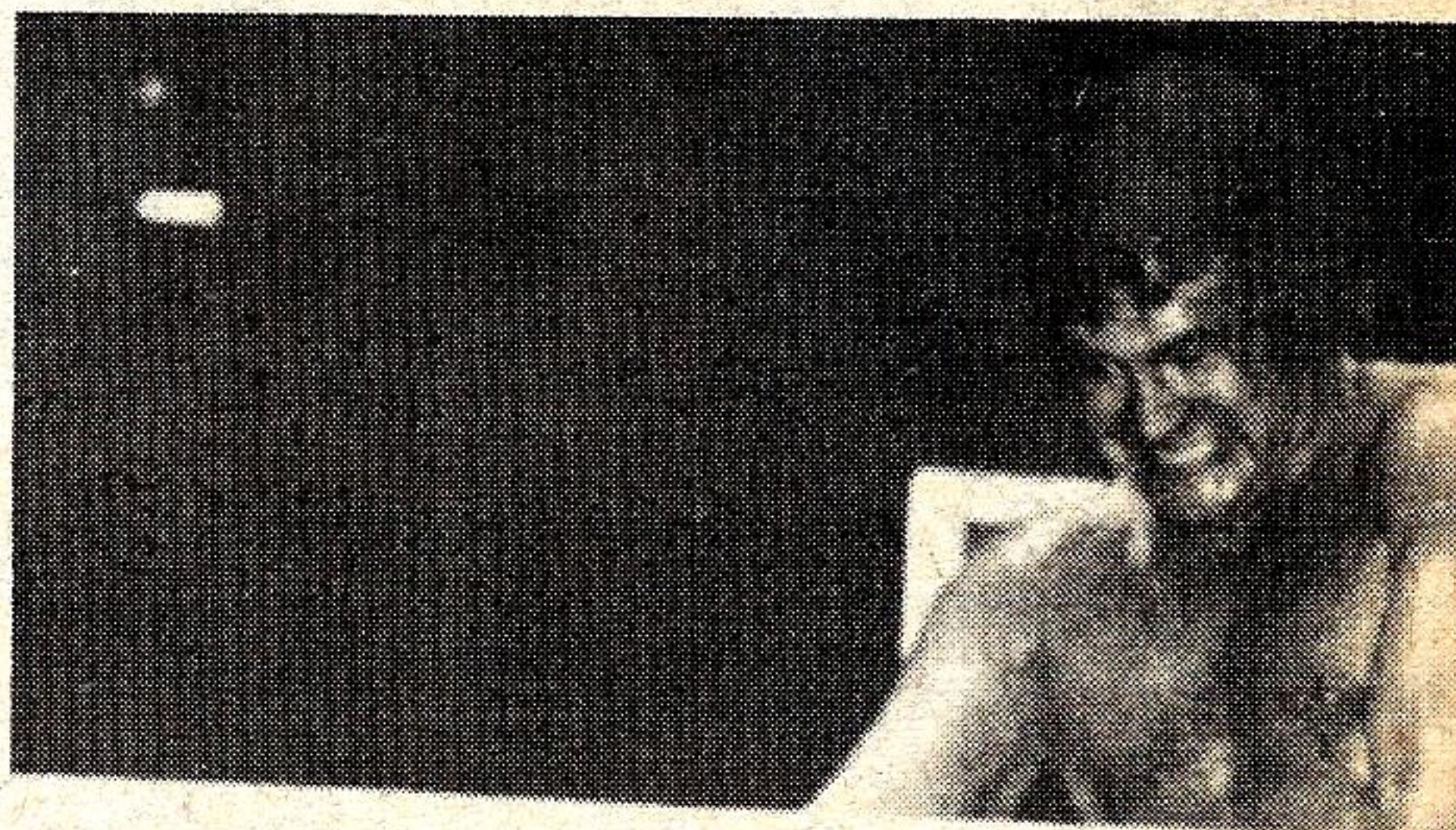
L
Ernie Ladd

M
Mil Mascaras
Raul Mata

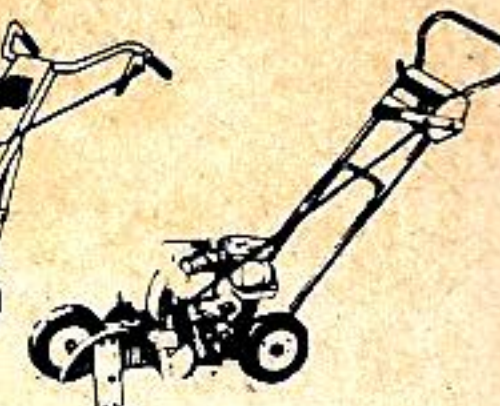
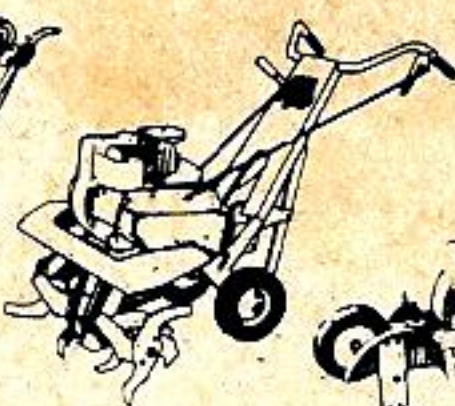
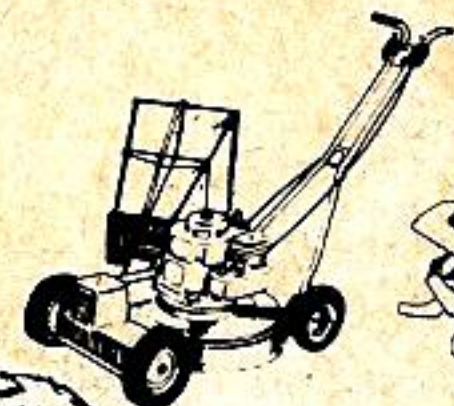
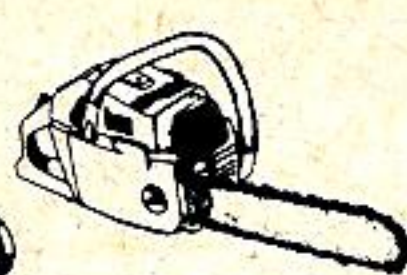
P
Ivan Putski

R
Victor Rivera
Bob Roop

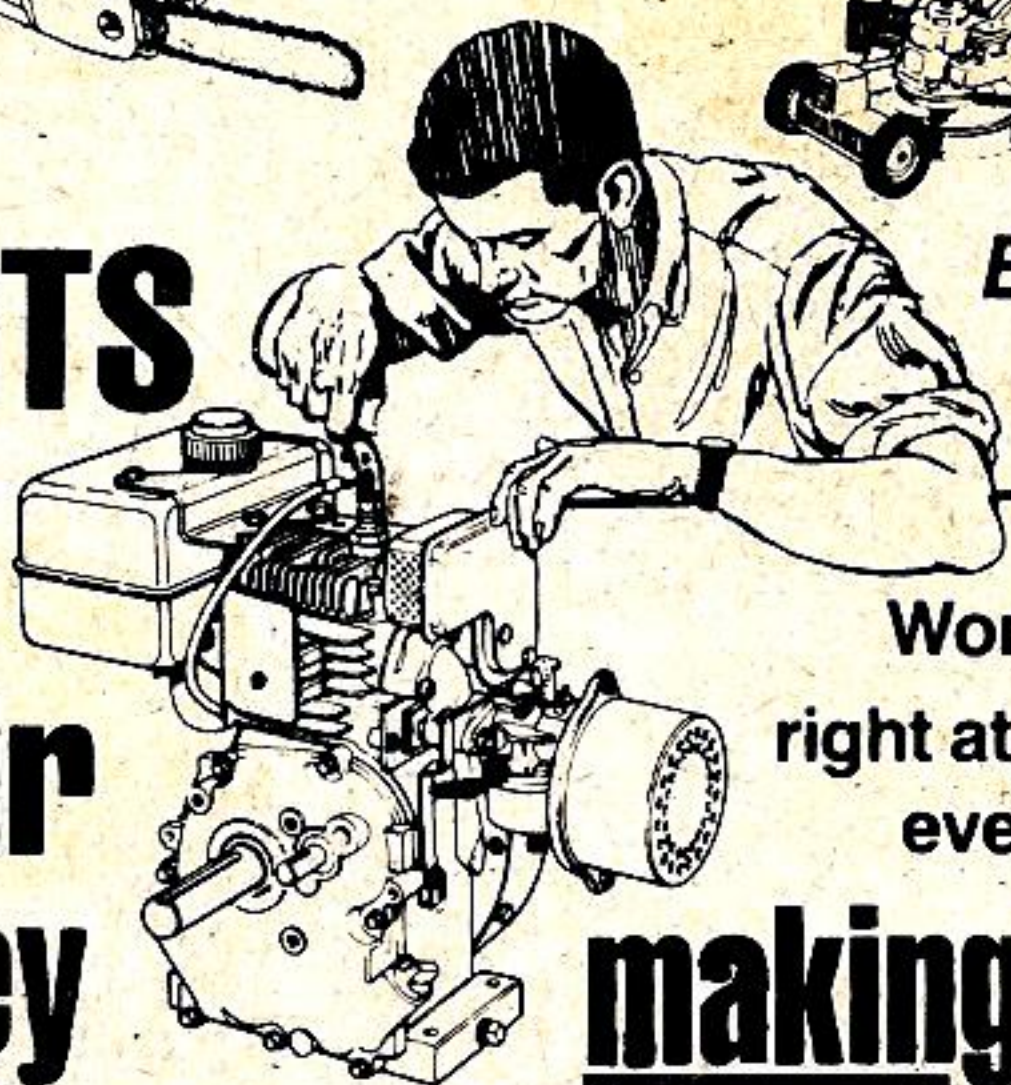
S
Bruno Sammartino
The Sheik
Ray Stevens
Jay Strongbow



Chavo Guerrero, shown applying his surfboard hold is a highly-regarded grappler who looms as a titleholder of the future.



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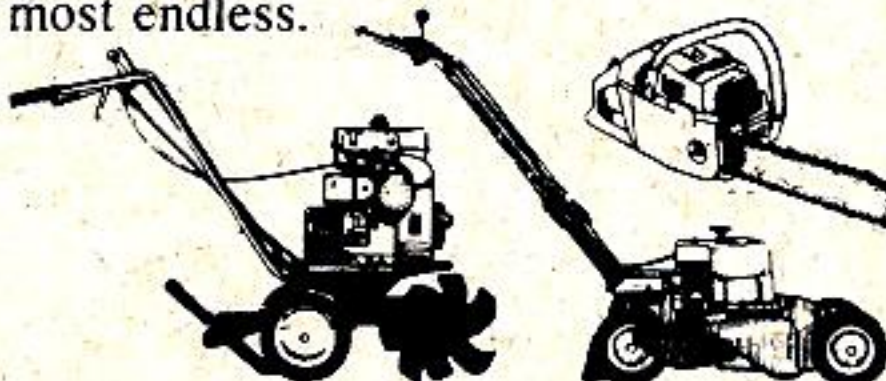
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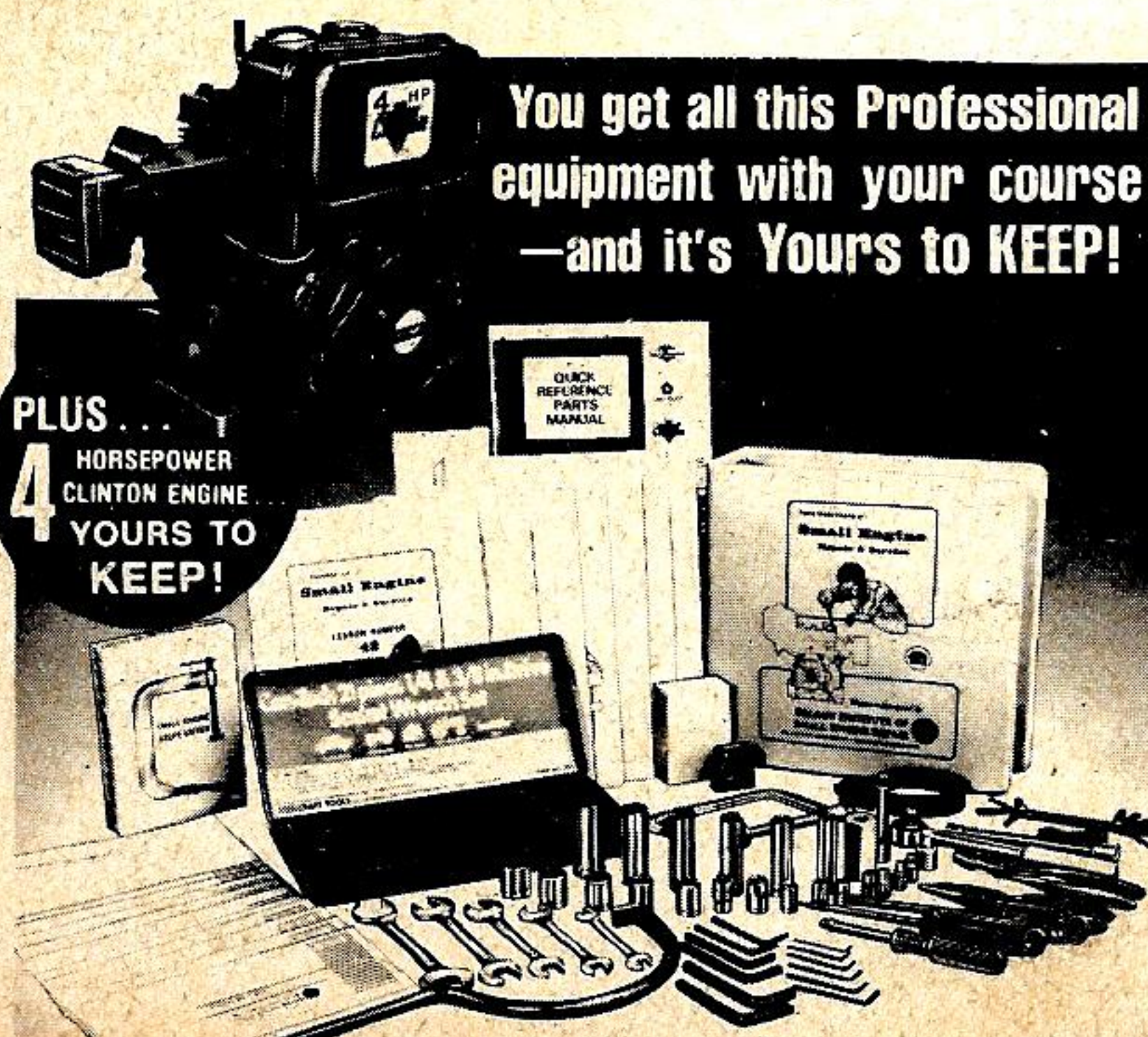
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